

Poolesville High School
17501 Willard Road
Poolesville, Maryland 20837-2006
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March 9, 2007

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I mentioned in the PTSA newsletter last week, PHS staff, the Healthy Air Alliance, and Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) staff have been collaborating on our indoor air quality concerns. We have been meeting periodically during the last school year and more frequently this semester. All the power points from the meetings are on our web site. We also publicize the time and date on our web site for these joint meetings and invite all interested parties to attend. Reporters from the local papers also have been present. You may have read some of the articles in *Poolesville On-Line* or the *Gazette*.

At our March 8 meeting, we were assured by Mr. Richard Hawes, Director of Facilities Management for MCPS, that our school is a safe building for the entire student body and staff. Mr. Hawes will be coming to all future meetings to listen to our concerns, respond to the issues raised, and provide us updates on the work that will be done this summer on the HVAC. He also will respond to the questions we have regarding air quality in the building and the plans MCPS has for addressing them.

We have also had Mr. Ed Light, Licensed Industrial Hygienist and President of Building Dynamics, at PHS for the past three days. He had individual meetings with staff who submitted air quality concerns and inspected the building, with special emphasis on rooms that staff members identified as problematic. We shall put his report on the web as well.

MCPS has contracted with Apex Environmental to remove the water from the vault under our science wing and seal the vault. Mr. Hawes also has assured us that the water in the vault is neither toxic nor harmful to any of us studying and working in PHS.

We are appreciative of the questions raised by our staff and students and for the work the Healthy Air Alliance has done. MCPS has promised to address each concern, provide us with a time line for the HVAC, and meet with us monthly to provide updates. Please look on our PHS web page for all the past information as well as updates. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions. Our joint efforts will bring the best results.

Sincerely,

Deena Levine
Principal

DL:ch

Copy to:
Dr. Kimball
Mr. Hawes
PHS Staff