March 26, 2019

UPDATE REGARDING AIR QUALITY/ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AT SUNSET LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Good afternoon,

As most parents and staff are probably aware, Kary Amin of Nova Environmental visited Sunset Lake Elementary from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. yesterday for purposes of listening to concerns and answering questions from parents and staff. In addition, Kary performed the following additional testing:

- Mold air sampling in select rooms and hallways.
- Air sampling for the presence of PCB’s.
- Water sampling for the presence of lead and copper.
- Measurement of carbon dioxide (CO2) concentrations in room 410.

We expect the results of the air and water sampling to be available sometime late next week. We will distribute complete reports to all parents and staff as soon as we receive them. We will also post these reports to the Vicksburg Community Schools website.

Measurements in room 410 indicated that CO2 levels were higher than anticipated, at around 1,500 ppm. Ideally, we would like to see this level below 1,000 ppm. While CO2 concentrations at this level are not considered dangerous, it could certainly contribute to a “stuffy” feeling in the room, which we know is not optimal for room occupants to perform at their highest level.

Next Steps:

- The District is working closely with its custodial contractor to perform a deep cleaning over spring break, including the following:
  1. Washing of all carpets using a low-moisture extractor.
  2. Cleaning and disinfection of all accessible surfaces (desks, chairs, door and bathroom hardware, etc.)
  3. Stripping and waxing of the cafeteria floor.
  4. Scrubbing and waxing of hallways.
- District maintenance personnel will be performing the semi-annual preventative maintenance and filter changes on classroom unit ventilators. As part of this process, technicians will be closely examining units to ensure optimal airflow, including sufficient introduction of “makeup” air from outdoors. After completion of this work, we will re-measure CO2 levels when the building is occupied after spring break.
- We are continuing to establish the environmental safety committee. Please stay tuned for additional information after spring break. As a reminder, we hope to assemble a team of
parents, staff members, administration and outside experts to collaborate and synergize to get answers to questions and to solve problems.

As stated previously, the District is committed to working transparently and collaboratively with parents and staff to ensure the healthy and safe environments necessary to support teaching and learning. Please stay tuned for additional information, and as always, please contact me directly if you should have additional questions or concerns.

Stephen Goss, Assistant Superintendent
sgoss@vicksburgschools.org