

VALPARAISO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Office of the Superintendent

Administration Building
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Valparaiso, Indiana 46385

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February 21, 2018

Dear Valparaiso Community School Parents and Staff:

Over the past few weeks we have had several calls from parents concerned about the asbestos removal process being implemented during the building project. This letter serves as notice to all about the reason for the removal, the precautions taken during the removal, the public discussion and reports at VCS Board of School Trustees meetings, and where the results of the tests and site visits conducted by state officials can be reviewed. We will do our best to explain in layman's terminology the information we have. Please also know that you may find copies of testing and state site visits on our website, as well as posted at the individual schools per legal requirements.

When the building projects were started in 2016, Superintendent Frataccia and VCS Board of School Trustees decided that during these projects the asbestos should be removed. It was not required that it be removed, but it was desired to eliminate any potential hazards in the future. The total cost for the removal at all school buildings accounts for nearly \$3,000,000 of the total cost of the project. For the safety of our students, staff, and community, this has been considered money well spent.

To complete the asbestos removal task, the Board of School Trustees hired Mr. John Blosky with Amereco Engineering. Mr. Blosky is a local resident and certainly has a key interest in the current and future safety of the environments within our schools. Mr. Blosky has been in the environmental consulting and engineering business since 1992 and has assisted public school districts with their asbestos compliance since 1989. Throughout the projects, Amereco has worked closely with contractors and state officials to ensure the proper handling of asbestos. To further ensure safety of our students, staff, and community, the removal of the asbestos takes place on off-hours when students and staff are not present. Proper signage, area quarantine, and disposal protocols are strictly adhered to in the removal process. Please keep in mind, the construction workers in the area are also mindful of the precautions taken during this process, as per their individual union regulations – thus ensuring even more safety for our students, staff, and community.

Both Mr. Blosky and Mr. Scott Cherry, Skillman Corporation, have been providing regular updates at our public board meetings on the construction progress to include asbestos remediation reports when required. We can assure you, it has been our goal since the projects began to be transparent on every issue and concern surrounding these complex and multiple building projects. The Board of School Trustees and Administration have taken seriously every minute of their important task of managing \$150,000,000 of taxpayer money to ensure a responsible and safe process is followed so that in the end, our children and our community will have beautiful newly renovated and built facilities in which to learn and play.

From the inception of the projects, all asbestos-containing materials were addressed in accordance with the US-EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), rule 40 CFR 763 Subpart E – “Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools”, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910.1001 “General Industry Asbestos Standard” and 29 CFR 1926.1101 “Construction Industry Asbestos Standard”. All inspections, project designs, abatement, air monitoring and sample analyses were performed by qualified individuals and where applicable, licensed through the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency Indiana Department of Environmental Management Office of Air Quality.

If you would like to make an appointment to review the documentation gathered on the asbestos removal and air quality testing, please contact Mr. Todd VanKeppel at (219) 252-8384. The documentation will be maintained at the Valparaiso Community School Administration Building located at 3801 N. Campbell. Documents may also be viewed on our website at <http://www.valpo.k12.in.us> under the *Facilities Library* tab.

Valparaiso Community Schools
Administration