

Presentation to the North Providence School Committee

Facilities Overview

Superintendent Bridget Morisseau
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Introductions: Facilities Experts/Consultants

Dr. Josephine Saltzman

Ocean State Analytics

Ana Novais, Executive Director

Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH)

Dr. Joseph DaSilva, Director of School Building Authority

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)

North Providence School Facilities Timeline Review



Where are we now?

\$75 million dedicated to school construction and health/safety upgrades to the North Providence Schools

- Preparing for demolition of Stephen Olney School and McGuire School
- Collaborating with architects, general contractors, and RIDE on school designs
- Roof replacement at Whelan Elementary and Ricci Middle School (summer 2017 completion)
- Installation of preventative passive radon mitigation system as part of the new gym floor at Whelan
- Remaining schools will have roofs replaced
- HVAC and heating systems upgrades
- Swing schools being prepared for 2017-18 school year

What is Radon?

- Radon is a tasteless and odorless gas that is found in soil and can only be detected through testing
- Can enter a structure through typical cracks and openings
- All public, private, and parochial school buildings or school sites housing students in kindergarten through grade twelve must be tested for radon every three years.

Radon Testing Requirements

Short Term

- Building shall be left closed at least 12 hours prior to and during entire test
- Routine entrances and exits are allowed
- Measurement devices left in place for a minimum of 48 hours
- Conducted during the months of October through March

Long Term

- Begin follow-up testing according to timeframe defined in regulations.
- **Windows and doors shall be operated as usual for the building and the time of year.**
- Follow-up testing conducted in school buildings during the occupied portion of the school year and may include both weekends and holidays other than summer vacation.

Note: Any area of a public or high priority building having an annual average level of radon in excess of or equal to 4 pCi/L (0.02 WL) as determined by follow-up measurements must be mitigated to a level below 4 pCi/L (0.02 WL).

Results of Required Radon Testing and Actions Taken

Date	Testing Agency	Details/Results
1996	Ocean State Analytics	Baseline established
1999-2003	Ocean State Analytics	Required 3-year testing
2003-2015	Rory Martin	Results on file at RIDOH
2015-2016 school year	Ocean State Analytics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 classrooms at Whelan and 1 classroom at NPHS had slightly elevated numbers• Long-term testing to begin in September 2017 in all three classrooms

Stage I and Stage II Required Environmental Testing Results

Environmental Hazard	Testing Agency	Results
Asbestos	Vortex, Inc. Environmental Management	NPSD Asbestos Report Asbestos AHERA Memos indicate that all school buildings had NO CHANGES in conditions from previous surveillances or re-inspections
Radon	Radon Testing Corporation of America Martin Casey	McGuire Elementary - All areas within EPA and RIDOH acceptable levels Stephen Olney Elementary - No elevation in occupied areas. All areas with the exception of the crawlspace within EPA and RIDOH acceptable levels

Other Environmental Testing in the NPSD Schools

Conducted by: Gerard F. Bliss, Inc. Occupational Health and Safety Consultants

Whelan Elementary School

Date	Tests	Results
March 8, 2016	Air quality tests performed to determine if mold spore levels and other airborne particulates in the Principal's office were elevated and if so, did they create a health hazard.	Executive Summary (dated March 19, 2016) states: <i>All particulate levels, including mold spores in the Principal's office were WELL WITHIN the expected (safe) levels. It is reasonable to conclude that the air quality in this office is <u>not</u> a health threat.</i>
June 23, 2016	Follow-up investigation conducted to determine if mold spore levels (and other airborne particulates) in a number of classrooms were elevated and if so, did this create a health hazard for the staff and students.	Executive Summary (dated July 5, 2016) states: <i>1. <u>All</u> particulate levels, including mold spores, in the various rooms that we sampled were WITHIN the expected (safe) levels. It is reasonable to conclude that airborne particulates are <u>not</u> a health threat in these areas. 2. Fresh air make-up to the classrooms and offices should be investigated further. For example, all of the "exhaust" fans in the various classrooms were inoperative suggesting there is virtually no mechanical ventilation in these areas. These fans should be repaired and maintained in order to keep carbon dioxide (CO2) levels within the current guidelines (<800 ppm). 3. I recommend cleaning the heating coils in all of the classrooms and offices. Visual inspection revealed significant quantities of dust and dirt on the "fins: and on the space under the coils.</i>

Other Environmental Testing in the NPSD Schools

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McGuire Elementary School

March 17,
2016

Air quality tests performed to determine if mold spore levels and other airborne particulates in classroom 1 were elevated and if so, did they create a health hazard

Executive Summary (dated March 23, 2016) states: *1. Mold spores in classroom 1 were WELL WITHIN the expected (safe) levels. It is reasonable to conclude that mold is not a health threat. 2. Airborne particulate levels (miscellaneous dust) were slightly elevated and might affect individuals with pre-existing respiratory problems like asthma. We recommend either removing the carpet from this classroom or thoroughly cleaning it on a regular basis.*

ACTIONS TAKEN

Whelan Elementary

- Installation of air exchange system
- Heating coils and ducts were cleaned
- Soiled ceiling tiles were changed

RIDOH Analyses Currently Being Conducted

The RIDOH will be receiving a list of former and current NPSD educators and matching those names to the RIDOH cancer registry database.

An analysis will be conducted to determine if the number of confirmed cases is within the expected range.

Next Steps: EPA Tools for Schools

Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Framework for Success



Designed to promote the proven approaches and strategies for IAQ management that advance environmental health in schools.

Framework helps everyone involved in the NPSD IAQ program understand the overarching purpose of the work our team does every day and how those day-today tasks translate into significant environmental health achievements in our schools.