

Letter from GRPS to North Park Montessori Parents and Staff

February 28, 2019

Dear North Park Montessori Parents and Staff,

We are writing with additional updates on the North Park Montessori situation.

MicroAir / New Project Designer: We want to inform you that MicroAir has decided to step back from this project. The district now has to hire a new Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) accredited project designer. This has caused a delay in the timeline in which we had hoped to have the appropriate testing completed. We are in the process of reaching out to companies on the MIOSHA list of accredited project designers. As soon as we have secured a new project designer, we will inform you.

To reiterate the information that was shared in the February 21 communication, in accordance with MIOSHA, the district must hire an accredited project designer. The project designer is required to develop a project design plan for 1) determining the scope of potential contamination, 2) cleaning and decontamination, and 3) clearance air monitoring. This plan will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). They are working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Centers for Disease Control Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to develop recommendations for the samplings including asbestos, lead, and silica.

Follow Up Meeting with District, County, and State Officials: Superintendent Weatherall Neal and district leaders met again this morning with representatives from the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA)/Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The Kent County Health Department is encouraging students and staff to take advantage of the free lead testing they are offering. Lead levels typically elevate for the first 35 days after exposure, so in order to have the best, most accurate testing, students and staff should be tested by March 22, 2019. The Kent County Health Department is continuing to offer free, walk-in lead tests. Please see the attached letter for more information.

MDEQ shared that they believe they have the information needed for their investigation, but they are seeking clarification from the USEPA Region 5 office. MIOSHA indicated that they have opened inspections of all seven employers at the site and are continuing their work to determine if the district, the construction manager, and subcontractors complied with MIOSHA rules and regulations. These investigations typically take around 45 days.

MDHHS indicated they are waiting for the district to hire the project designer and have already been in touch with the USEPA and ATSDR. Once the project designer is hired, they will work directly with them to develop the sampling protocols.

MDHHS and KCHD are committed to collaborating with GRPS to provide public health oversight for the North Park response as it relates to children, staff, responding to concerns about potential asbestos exposure, track-out, health, and re-occupancy of the North Park building. They will also respond to parental and staff concerns about lead or other potential contaminants.

Follow Up Parent / Staff Meeting: MDHHS has been in touch with representatives from the EPA and are making arrangements for experts from local, state, and federal agencies to be present at future parent/staff meetings. We are looking at the week of March 11 for the follow up meetings to occur. We are exploring non-GRPS locations that may accommodate large group meetings during the day and the evening. Please stay tuned for more information on the follow up parent/staff meetings.

Student Drop-Off / Pick-Up: We have been monitoring the student drop-off/pick-up daily and have seen significant improvements. We listened to feedback from parents and staff and incorporated some new practices like the 'pink cards' to make the process smoother and more efficient. At this time, we are not recommending flipping bus drop-off/pick-up with the student drop-off/pick-up.

Items Left Behind at North Park: Parents or staff that have essential items left behind at North Park are asked to please e-mail northparkinfo@grps.org or contact the administrative professionals in the main office. We are maintaining a list of items needed and are handling them on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you again for your patience, understanding, and support as we continue to work through this situation. If you have any questions or want additional information, please email NorthParkInfo@grps.org.