



Fund Our Facilities Coalition
c/o Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
1816 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

The Honorable Governor Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

October 14, 2019

Dear Governor Wolf,

Under your leadership, historic levels of education funding have been reinvested into our public schools. For far too long, our children suffered year after year from catastrophic budget cuts that resulted in the layoffs of nurses, counselors, reduced staffing, and criminally under-resourced schools. Alongside you, we have been fighting relentlessly to ensure that all of our students across the Commonwealth have the resources they need and deserve.

Today, we write to you as members and supporters of the Fund Our Facilities Coalition, a group of elected officials, labor leaders, and community groups united in its demands for immediate investment in the school infrastructure remediations that our buildings so desperately need. As you likely know, our coalition officially launched in March 2019 as an effort to coalesce around identifying the urgent resources needed to ensure the safety of our children and educators. For years, many of us have been engaged in this work and have been sounding the alarm about the catastrophic conditions in which our children learn.

As you know, our Coalition has calculated that for \$170 million, we could remediate the most pressing environmental hazards in Philadelphia's school buildings. This figure was devised after your very welcome investment of nearly \$8 million (matched by the District) in lead remediation in the summer of 2018. It was, however, devised before

your recent investment of more than \$4 million this summer, leaving us just shy of \$166 million to be funded.

Recently, we have called for an even more drilled down figure--\$100 million. In light of the horrific Mesothelioma diagnosis of a long-time Philadelphia teacher, we once again made our urgent plea. We believe that \$100 million of our \$170 million ask must be invested immediately to address dangerous asbestos and lead in each school.

We write to you today to urge you to explore every option to address this truly catastrophic health crisis. Attached are some recent photos collected by the PFT Environmental Scientist and/or submitted to the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers' Healthy Schools App. They merely scratch the surface of what our children and educators are enduring. Our school tour series is underway, and we welcome your participation in any of our upcoming tours, many of which are to be scheduled.

The time for action is now. This cannot wait another year, nor another month.

We believe that there are myriad ways to find the money for an emergency of this magnitude. We look forward to hearing from you, and we thank you for the efforts you have made for our young people and educators across the Commonwealth.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members and supporters of the Fund Our Facilities Coalition

Rick Bloomingdale

Richard Bloomingdale
President, Pennsylvania AFL-CIO

Brendan F. Boyle

Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress, PA-2

Ryan N. Boyer

Ryan N. Boyer
President, Philadelphia Building &
Construction Trades Council
Business Manager, Laborers District
Council

Donna Bullock

Donna Bullock
State Representative, 195th House District

Morgan Cephas

Morgan Cephas
State Representative, 192nd House
District

Joseph P. Ciresi

Joseph P. Ciresi
State Representative, 146th House District

Donna Cooper

Donna Cooper
Executive Director, Public Citizens for
Children and Youth (PCCY)

Patrick J. Eiding

Patrick J. Eiding
President, Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO

Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr.

Lawrence M. Farnese, Jr.
State Senator, 1st Senatorial District

Elizabeth Fiedler

Elizabeth Fiedler
State Representative, 184th House District

Nicole Fuller

Nicole Fuller
Executive Director, PhilaPOSH

Derek S. Green

Derek S. Green
Philadelphia City Council Member At-
Large

Helen Gym

Helen Gym
Philadelphia City Council Member At-
Large

Joseph C. Hohenstein

Joseph C. Hohenstein
State Representative, 177th House District

Reverend Gregory Holston

Reverend Gregory Holston
Executive Director, POWER

Vincent Hughes

Vincent Hughes
State Senator, 7th Senatorial District

Mary Louise Isaacson

Mary Louise Isaacson
State Representative, 175th House District

Jerry T. Jordan

Jerry T. Jordan
President, Philadelphia Federation of
Teachers

Malcolm Kenyatta

Malcolm Kenyatta
State Representative, 181st House District

Carolyn Ashley McBride

Carolyn Ashley McBride
Executive Director, For Our Future
Pennsylvania Action Fund

Joanna E. McClinton

Joanna E. McClinton
House Democratic Caucus Chair
State Representative, 191st House District

Jennifer O'Mara

Jennifer O'Mara
State Representative, 165th House District



Cherelle L. Parker
Philadelphia City Council Member, 9th
District



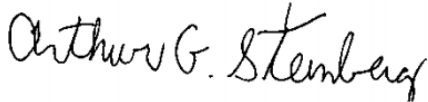
Brian K. Sims
State Representative, 182nd House
District

Frank Snyder

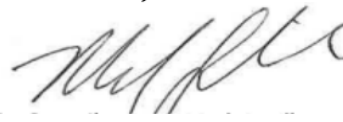
Frank Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer,
Pennsylvania AFL-CIO



Jared E. Solomon
State Representative, 202nd House
District



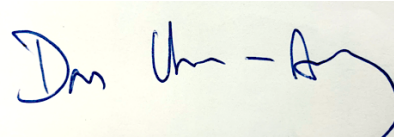
Arthur G. Steinberg
President, AFT Pennsylvania



Mark Squilla
Philadelphia City Council Member, 1st
District

See attached

Sharif Street
State Senator, 3rd Senatorial District



Dan Urevick-Ackelsberg
Staff Attorney, Public Interest Law Center

Randi Weingarten

Randi Weingarten
President, American Federation of
Teachers



Chris Woods
Acting President, AFSCME District 1199C

Enclosure

CC: Honorable Pedro Rivera, Pennsylvania Secretary of Education
Honorable James F. Kenney, Mayor, City of Philadelphia



Fund Our Facilities Letter
Enclosure
Facilities Photographs

Prepared for Governor Tom Wolf
October 2019

Photographs are organized in reverse chronological order and represent a mere sampling of reports the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers has received and observed in the past two months alone.

Photos represent submissions through the PFT Healthy Schools App and photos taken directly by PFT Environmental Scientist Jerry Roseman. Date listed is date submitted to Healthy Schools App or taken by Jerry Roseman.

Photo descriptors were developed by and in conjunction with Jerry Roseman to ensure accuracy.

Photo: 1 | Date: 10/7/19
School ID: High School A
Location: Occupied Classroom
Descriptor: *Severely damaged lead
paint and plaster*



PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2

Photo: 2 | Date: 10/2/19
School ID: High School B
Location: Occupied Fitness Room
Descriptor: *Severely damaged lead
paint and plaster*



PHOTO 3

Photo: 3 | Date: 10/4/19 | School ID: High School C
Location: Science office occupied by students, teachers, animals
Descriptor: *Broken floor tiles, presumed asbestos*



PHOTO 4

Photo: 4 | 10/4/19 | School ID: Elementary School A
Location: Occupied Classroom
Descriptor: *Severely damaged flaking lead paint*



PHOTO 5

Photo: 5 | Date: 10/4/19
School ID: Elementary School B
Location: Occupied Classroom
Descriptor: *Mold growth on textbooks*

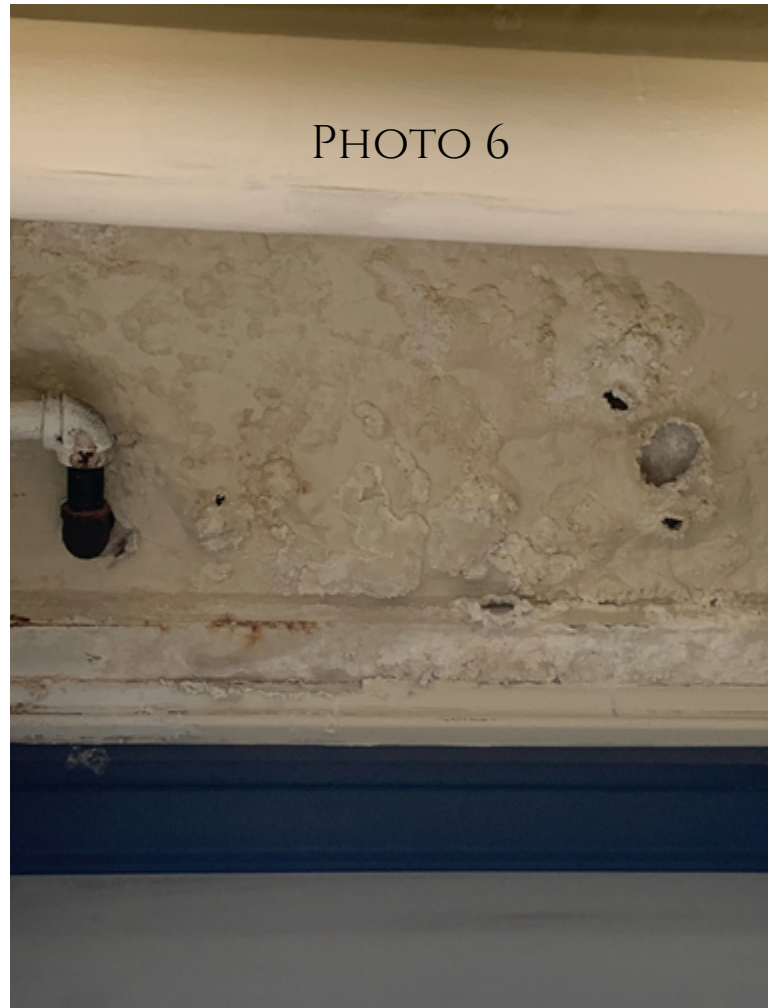


PHOTO 6

Photo: 6 | Date: 10/1/19
School ID: Elementary School C
Location: Nurse's Office
Descriptor: *Water damaged lead paint and plaster*



Photo: 7 | Date: 9/24/19
School ID: Elementary School D
Location: Occupied Classroom
Descriptor: *Damaged lead paint and plaster – long term problem*



Photo: 8 | Date: 9/18/19 | School ID: Elementary School E
Location: Occupied Gym
Descriptor: *Confirmed, damaged asbestos, exposed and dangerous*

PHOTO 9



Photos: 9&10

Date: 9/15/19

School ID: High School C

Location: Occupied Classroom

Descriptor: *Severely damaged lead
paint and plaster*

PHOTO 10





PHOTO 11

Photos: 11&12
Date: 8/31/19
School ID: High School D
Location: Occupied
Classroom
Descriptor: *Severe
structural damage to
ceiling*



PHOTO 12

Photo: 13 | Date: 8/31/19
School ID: Middle/HS A
Location: 2nd Floor Office
Descriptor: *Long term water damage/ mold growth - tiles assumed to be asbestos*



Photo: 14 | Date: 8/23/19
School ID: Elementary School F
Location: Classroom
Descriptor: *Damaged lead paint and plaster AND damaged asbestos textured ceiling*



PHOTO 15

Photo: 15 | 8/14/19

School ID: Elementary School G(1)

Location: Conference Room

Descriptor: *Mold growth on wall*



PHOTO 16

Photo: 16 | 8/14/19

School ID: Elementary School G(2)

Location: Student bathroom

Descriptor: *Combination of
damaged fiberglass and asbestos
pipe insulation overhead*

PHOTO 17



Photo: 17 | Date: 8/14/19 | School ID: Elementary School H

Location: Occupied classroom

Descriptor: *Mold growth on pipe insulation underneath sink*

PHOTO 18



Photo: 18 | Date: 8/12/19

School ID: Middle School A (1)

Location: 1st floor hallway

Photo Descriptor: *Mold growth on
hundreds of feet of pipe insulation
above drop ceilings*

PHOTO 19



Photo: 19 | Date: 8/12/19 | School ID: Middle School A(2)
Descriptor: *Long term water damage [from leaking pipes] resulting in major damage to flooring [floor tile and mastic assumed to be asbestos-containing]*

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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19140
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COMMITTEES
BANKING & INSURANCE,
MINORITY CHAIR
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
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PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON SENTENCING

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TWITTER: [@SenSharifStreet](https://twitter.com/SenSharifStreet)

Senate of Pennsylvania

October 14, 2019

RE: Fund Our Facilities Coalition

Dear Governor Wolf:

Under your leadership, historic levels of education funding have been reinvested into our public schools. For far too long, our children suffered year after year from catastrophic budget cuts that resulted in the layoffs of nurses, counselors, reduced staffing, and under-resourced schools.

Today, I write in support of the Fund Our Facilities Coalition, a group of elected officials, labor leaders, and community groups united in its demands for immediate investment in the school infrastructure remediations that our buildings so desperately need. This coalition officially launched in March 2019 as an effort to coalesce around identifying the urgent resources needed to ensure the safety of our children and educators.

The Coalition has calculated that for \$170 Million, we could remediate the most pressing environmental hazards in Philadelphia's school buildings. This figure was devised after your very welcome investment of nearly \$8 Million (matched by the District) in lead remediation in the summer of 2018. It was, however, devised before your recent investment of more than \$4 million this summer, leaving just shy of \$166 million to be funded.

Recently, the Coalition has called for a reduced figure--\$100 Million. Considering the horrific Mesothelioma diagnosis of a long-time Philadelphia teacher, there is little time for delay. Two additional schools in Philadelphia have been temporarily closed due to known asbestos in the facility. The requested \$100 million must be invested immediately to address dangerous asbestos and lead in each school.

Attached are some recent photos submitted to the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers' Healthy Schools App. They merely scratch the surface of what our children and educators are enduring. I have personally walked through one school and have seen the aging building and hazardous environment. Our school tour series is underway, and I welcome your participation in any of our upcoming tours, many of which are to be scheduled.

Thank you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sharif Street', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Sharif Street
3rd District