



PHILADELPHIA  
FEDERATION of TEACHERS

January 26, 2020

Dear Hopkinson Staff:

You are well aware of the ongoing facilities issues at Hopkinson, and I wanted to provide you with several updates on next course of action.

Upon the discovery of what's called an "imminent hazard" in reference to the asbestos concerns in the music room, the District correctly closed the room. An isolated imminent hazard in and of itself does not necessarily have ramifications throughout the building. However, as you know, we have a number of additional concerns in the school.

Because of our communications with many of you, immediately upon learning about your concerns last Friday (1/17), my team reported to the school and did a preliminary walkthrough. Deputy Mayor for Labor Rich Lazer accompanied them to get a better handle on the severity of the facilities issues we are grappling with. In their 2-hour walkthrough, our environmental scientist discovered additional concerns and immediately documented these, and put forward in writing an initial course of action that the District must undertake so that we can comprehensively address any facilities issues at Hopkinson.

The District quickly agreed to a thorough facilities walkthrough conducted jointly with the District and Federation. This walkthrough took place Thursday (1/23) and Friday (1/24). As you know, this joint walkthrough yielded the discovery of three additional areas of imminent hazards, and the status is as follows:

- Cafeteria: imminent hazard was repaired and cleared for reoccupancy.
- Main office closet: imminent hazard was removed.
- Hallway outside of 112: riser was removed and insulation replaced.

The work done over the weekend in these areas is encouraging. However, the most important next step is for us to develop a comprehensive plan to look at and address the remaining areas of concern in the building. We will be analyzing the information from the walkthroughs and engage in meetings with District personnel tomorrow. I do not yet have all of the answers, but I am encouraged that imminent hazards were addressed over the weekend.

You have many questions, I am sure. What we are committed to at the PFT is ensuring that your health and safety is protected, and I can assure you that my team is working diligently to determine the best course of action as well as what information we need to determine our next steps.

My promise to you is this: we are with you, and we will be relentless in our efforts to properly address the concerns at Hopkinson. I will continue to keep you informed and involved as we move forward.

Thank you for all you do for our children every day, and for your hard work during a very trying time.

In Solidarity,

Jerry T. Jordan  
President