



January 6, 2020

Robert Gilbert, Superintendent
Beecher Road School
40 Beecher Road
Woodbridge Connecticut 06525

Re: 2019-2020 Annual inspection of the Beecher Road School

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

As part of the 2019-2020 Annual School Inspection Program conducted by the staff of this Health District, the Beecher Road School was included. The inspection was made using guidelines recommended by the State Department of Public Health and refers to requirements and standards of the Connecticut Public Health Code and other State Statutes and Regulations. The purpose of the school inspection is to provide you with information for maintaining the public health environment of the school.

This year the Tools for Schools team has been integrated with the Health and Safety Committee (hereinafter *Team* will indicate the combined teams) in the interest of time efficiency. Again, this year the Team has made significant contribution to the indoor environment of the Beecher Road School. The Team continues to function at least as well as any other team in the other schools of our district. The genuine interest in the continuous improvement of the school is apparent and remains consistent.

In being part of this team I see, from the outsider's perspective, an ongoing positive change in the school's physical environment and the interpersonal environment. Without question, the Team gets much of the credit.

As in years past, the annual inspection was conducted on several different days so that schedules could be accommodated. This year's surveys of the school's employees again revealed that many teachers were entirely satisfied with their classrooms and work environments.

The complexities of the indoor environment of school buildings are larger and more ever-changing than most of us appreciate. As knowledge is gained, and appreciation for the effort required to maintain a school becomes more widely comprehended, each of the building's occupants can see how their role and positive interaction or non-interaction impact the environment of the school. Understanding that nothing is perfect, and that continuous improvement requires knowledge of, and acceptance that, problems will always exist, the Team did document areas that need improvement.

The following are items that the team observed that need to be addressed. Most items are easily addressed. Many items are concerns that have been documented in the past; ongoing reminders and education could improve many of them. My notes written during the inspections contain many references to good conditions related to ventilation, cleanliness, and lack of clutter. These conditions are the norm and adding every instance of citation of *good* or *outstanding* conditions in this report would be excessive. Compliments are due to all who participate in maintaining the building.

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1. Room A1: this room had floor tiles that were no longer well-adhered to the floor. Vito Esparro, Director of Facilities, has a plan in-place to remove and replace the tiles this summer. The sliding bulletin board in this room wasn't fastened to the floor securely at one corner; this is a safety issue that could be remedied by removal of the bulletin board. Other rooms with similar sliding bulletin boards need to be evaluated and addressed.
2. Room A3 and others: at the handwash sinks there is still a concern that water splashes onto the countertops. In many rooms a reduction in the flow rate of the water has solved this problem.
3. A, B, and C-wing restroom ventilation: this was the dominant conversation topic this year. Odor from the rest rooms continues to trouble people; Mr. Esparro explained that an upgrade to the vent system is planned which should reduce odor issues.
4. Room A8: this room had food that was improperly stored. Ongoing discussion of mice continues in portions of the school and better storage or elimination of food would alleviate this problem.
5. Food in classrooms, school-wide: food continues to be allowed into classrooms instead of being strictly consumed in the cafeteria. Food attracts animals into the school as evidenced by numerous reports. It also causes extra work by the maintenance team as food remnants and liquid spills inevitably end up on the floors. Several empty classrooms had open food, leftover from snack time, on children's desks. See below regarding the problem and partial solution related to food in the Band Room.
6. Book Room, North: one ceiling tile had a historic stain on it. The tile was dry and there was no health concern.
7. Language Arts: there was a complaint received by our office about an odor several month ago. There were no odors during the inspection but Mr. Esparro plans to investigate the probable cause of the odor when he has spare time. Along the North wall/ceiling of this room there is decorative paper that appears to have been there for a long time. This paper is an area that will collect dust and is an area that can't be properly cleaned. Decorations should all be temporary and be removed and replaced before they become places for dust and irritants to collect.
8. Room B4: the ventilation system upgrade will be done by the next cooling system.
9. Rooms B7/B8: These rooms are separated by a partition that used to fold and slide easily out of the way. Several of the panels were not fastened properly and have the potential to be safety problems. A permanent solution is needed. Holes in the ceiling panel observed are not a health concern but a result of repair work in the past.
10. Room B2: there is a new instructor working in this classroom and the room is better organized and clean. The closet was excessively full which prevents the maintenance team from doing proper cleaning. There was also an unlocked fire-proof cabinet that contained aerosol spray paints. The use of these paints needs extensive review: who uses them and the kind of personal protective equipment available must be well understood and properly used. Spray paint should not be used inside the school and, if children use the paint, suitable protective gear for them is required. When the paints and other items in the cabinet are not being used, the cabinet should be locked.
11. Room C1: contraband sanitizer was present. Observation of products that should not be in the building were much fewer this year, but a number of items were discovered in each wing of the building. A dehumidifier was present but is of little value here. While the room was comfortable there was a predictable temperature control problem caused by the instructor's belongings blocking the thermostat.
12. Room C2: what appeared to be mouse droppings were on the floor of the closet. However, excess materials on the floor prevent the Maintenance team from doing thorough cleaning. Inside the closet

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- are pipes protruding through the concrete blocks; mice may enter through the space between the pipes and the concrete. Filling the gaps would be appropriate.
13. Library: a few ceiling tiles were stained perhaps from condensate during the summer. These colorations are not health concerns.
 14. Tech Center: this room was warmer than other areas of the school. There isn't any positive ventilation of this room because it is not intended for occupancy. Consideration for returning this room into non-occupied space should be made.
 15. K-Wing, various places: several areas of several ceilings had water stains on them. Mr. Esparo explained that there are problems with this wing's roof. Repair is planned.
 16. Room K3: contraband spray disinfectant was discovered. Ongoing reminders are needed for several portions of the school. A teacher-supplied carpet was present and in poor condition. It needs to be removed. A second, school-supplied, carpet was present; it needed cleaning but was in good condition. The date that the carpet was installed was not on the carpet.
 17. Band Room: this room remains the major problem. See past reports. Chairs and rugs brought from home or salvaged from elsewhere need to be removed. These items were present at last year's inspection and advice provided at that time was not adhered to. The room remains massively cluttered and uncleaned due to the clutter. Aerosol sprays were present as were the uncleaned band uniforms discussed in the prior year's report. There was an odor in the room and the intensity of the odor increases near the office to the rear of the room. That office continues to be cluttered and filthy. At least one table in the room was covered with debris that was present at last year's inspection. There has been no improvement to this room.
At this year's discussion after the Team's inspections, we learned that there is a routine, daily eating event that occurs in the band room. Certainly, the volume of food and the resulting food waste that ends up in the trash bins contributes to the odor in this room. The dirty carpet is also a contributor among other likely items. We also learned that the students use the music stands as tables or trays for their lunch food. These stands are not intended for this use and one can easily see that food remnants would be distributed among the music stand area and onto the stands and sheet music. The practice of having lunch in the music room or any other non-cafeteria room should end. Jane Roddy suggested that a temporary, interim-only, improvement would be that eating in the band room would be restricted to a small dedicated table away from everything else in the room. A thorough emptying and deep cleaning of this room is needed. The topic of the dirty uniforms needs to be addressed also.
 18. South Gym: the ventilation was questionable. The room was warm and stuffy. Recently the carbon dioxide level in this room was recorded at 900 parts per million. The upper limit for comfort is 1000 parts per million. The volume of fresh air entering this room needs to be evaluated and controlled so that the carbon dioxide levels remain much lower especially when the room is fully occupied.
 19. South Spanish E3: there was a discolored ceiling tile near the door. This may be related to an ongoing minor roof problem. Mr. Esparo is aware of it.
 20. South Art Room: the rear storage room was very messy and needs to be organized and cleaned and kept clean. Mr. Esparo described a planned upgrade to the lighting system.
 21. Lavatory near S9, Girls: this lavatory had a foul odor. Ventilation is minimal.
 22. Room S17: the drinking fountain had a very weak stream and needs adjustment. There were no blinds and a discussion followed about lock-down procedures.
 23. Room S16: this is the room where the dogs spend the most time. There needs to be continuous diligent upkeep of this room and upkeep of the animals so that pathogens and allergens don't become problems. There was a report of water coming into the room at the threshold of the exterior door. Mr. Esparo is aware of the problem with the sidewalk.

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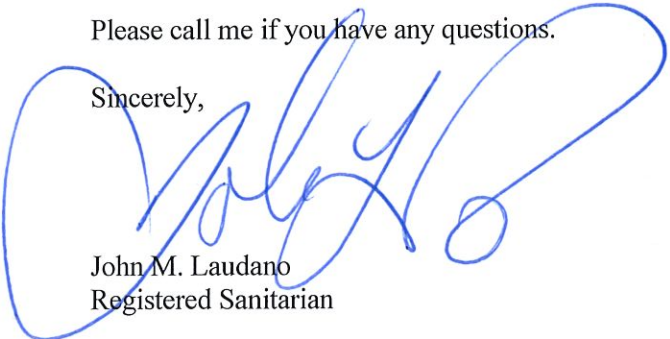


24. Room S12: one ceiling tile was stained and broken. This wasn't a health problem. The closet was uncleanable due to excessive belongings on the floor.
25. Room S2: the drinking fountain had a weak stream.
26. Room D6: this room also had a drinking fountain in need of repair and there were numerous contraband chemicals and powders present.
27. PTO Closet: a second-hand report of mice and mouse droppings was discussed but only limited evidence was observed. There were several containers of contraband cleaning wipes and there was a sweet smell of food product. The odor of food and the likelihood that food was there predicts that mice will be attracted to this area. We could not observe the entire area because it was over-filled with supplies.

With the exception of the Band Room there is obvious improvement within the school. I look forward to working with you and the Team as always.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



John M. Laudano
Registered Sanitarian



Lynn Fox, R.S.
Chief, Environmental Services

Copy: Al Pullo
Analisa Sherman
The TFS Team via Mr. Pullo
Beth Heller
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