



March 23, 2017

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

Re: 2016-2017 Annual inspection of the Beecher Road School

Dear Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Pullo,

As part of the 2016-2017 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's inspection included observation of rooms that the recent instructor survey identified as having problems or concerns. The survey is part of the Tools for Schools (TfS) program whereby all the teachers are individually asked to respond to a questionnaire that solicits concerns and complaints about the conditions of their rooms. This year there were even more responses to the survey do, primarily, to the continuing diligence of Lola Johnson. The response rate was an impressive 82%. Data from the survey was tabulated in detail and individual reports were made for each classroom where concern was raised. The ongoing thoroughness of the team is remarkable. Using the philosophy of continuous improvement where the team's work is used, checked, critiqued, and then modified, it was discovered that at least one survey question produced responses that were not reflective of current conditions. The cause of the errant data was the time lag between when surveys were completed and the dates of the inspections. The question will be revised for next year's survey.

Choosing to inspect only the rooms where there were concerns reported was again due to the team's reasoning that if an instructor did not return a survey form, then that instructor had no complaint and was satisfied with the condition of his or her room. There were a few rooms that did get observed even though a survey was not returned; team members thought this to be a good proactive approach; those rooms were in excellent condition.

This year's inspections occurred on three days; January 20<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, and March 16<sup>th</sup>. The team also met on December 16, 2016 to review and discuss the survey results and to formulate a schedule for the walk-thru inspections. I, and various subsets of the TfS team, was present on each of those dates. Mr. Pullo lead the team; it was good to have him back this year.

The TfS team has shown itself to be exemplary in its enthusiasm and productivity and in the results they've achieved. The organization of the surveys, forms, tables, response letters, and communications is unparalleled. I believe Mr. Pullo has won an award for his efforts.

The school remains in exceptional condition. The Tools for Schools team has again shown that continuous improvement is possible and achievable.

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Below is an itemized list of what the TFS team observed. Many of the topics below have been corrected as of this writing; Greg Kula's team has insured that problems continue to be addressed professionally and quickly.

Of particular noteworthiness is remedy of a concern of odor reported in the vicinity of Room S-7. Please see my letter on the topic dated February 3, 2017. The odor has been eliminated by simple extension of roof vents. It appears that odor from the wastewater system was periodically being drawn in through fresh air supply fans causing periodic odor in the classroom and hallway.

Another concern remedied is that of the faucets at the sinks in the classrooms. Many had necks that were tall and splashing easily occurred. The faucets have been replaced with new ones and the problem has been resolved.

The list below is organized corresponding to the team's pathway through the school during the inspections. The S-pod was inspected first and was the most organized and free of clutter. Many more S-pod rooms were observed than are listed below and those rooms were in very good or exceptional condition.

Items 17 and 23 below need to be addressed soon and, aside from the contraband chemicals found in various places, is the significant topic this year. There are other rooms that have similar concern and need to be addressed at the same time.

Some of the items below would or could have been addressed prior to our inspection but there is some evidence that the *School Dude* reporting system is not being used by all the instructors; routine repairs can't be made if nobody is aware of the problem.

1. S7: see above.
2. S8: the rug is scheduled to be replaced as will all S-pod carpets.
3. S9: there were contraband wipes present, there was a water leak at the sink, and there was one stained ceiling tile. The tile did not represent a current water leak and posed no health concern.
4. S10: this room had several ripped pillows and had carpet tiles provided by the instructor that were dirty. These need to be removed if they haven't already been removed.
5. S13: a minor amount of spider webs was observed and there were food remnants on the small carpet. See comments elsewhere about rodents.
6. S11: there was minor dust on the grills of the door to the lavatory.
7. S2: a minor odor was reported but not observed. This may have been related to the topic of room S7.
8. S1: there was a minor leak at the water faucet.
9. Language Arts Room: this room had had a temperature fluctuation problem in the recent past that has since been fixed. Mr. Kula, using his newly acquired data logger, was able to verify the problem and have it repaired. The room was comfortable during the inspection.
10. Resource Room: the sidewalk outside of the exit door to the outdoors was higher than the threshold of the door. Water and worms can enter the classroom. A suitable permanent repair is needed. There was also a non-problematic stained ceiling tile.
11. S3: the faucet needed repair, there was a couch that should be removed due to its condition, there was a significant number of contraband chemicals, there was open and unprotected food, and aerosol spray paint. All need to be addressed appropriately. Lack of protection of the food encourages mice and rodents.

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12. S4: this room had improperly stored food, a black couch that should be removed, and had posters hanging from the ceiling that prevented air circulation and would contribute to uneven heating and cooling of the room. A non-problematic stained ceiling tile was observed.
13. S17: the drinking fountain was loose and needed repair.
14. S5: a new faucet is needed; it wouldn't shut off. This room had carpet tiles that, while in ok condition, need to be monitored and replaced periodically. Annual replacement would be wise as the responsibility to clean and vacuum them is not that of Mr. Kula's team.
15. Teacher's Room: there was a non-problematic stained ceiling tile.
16. North Art Room: there were several floor tiles that needed replacing; Mr. Kula said they are planned to be replaced during spring break. New acoustic tiles were added to the ceiling of this room and the result was immediately noticeable. The survey form for this room indicated a musty odor; TFS team members identified the smell coming from a bag of smocks. Proper washing and drying would remedy this.
17. A8: the unit new unit ventilator was not providing ventilation. This condition was observed simultaneous to observing that the lights in the room were turned off. Mr. Kula explained that there is a direct relationship between the lighting and the unit ventilators and is related to attempted energy saving if the rooms were not occupied. While this may seem a wise financial choice, it causes the rooms' occupants to be deprived of fresh air and appropriate temperature and humidity levels. When classrooms are occupied there must be continuous ventilation and the ventilation system cannot be allowed to be randomly controlled by the instructors via turning the lights off and on. Mr. Kula explained that the topic did come up during the renovation of the school and that there is a viable solution that can be readily achieved. This room had unauthorized chlorine wipes and body lotion that needs to be removed.
18. A9: a mouse dropping was observed.
19. A5: there was a strong cologne odor present. This practice should be avoided as it can cause allergic reaction in some people.
20. A3: the closet floor was covered with unnecessary items and the closet cannot be routinely cleaned because of this.
21. A4: the closet had similar condition to that of A3. The shelves and material storage needs to be improved upon. There was a hole through the entry door that needs repair.
22. A2: the closet needs attention as above, there was dust on the unit ventilator, and the carpet on the loft was dirty and in need of thorough cleaning or replacement. Cleanliness of this carpet is the responsibility of the instructor of this room and not that of the maintenance team.
23. A1: this room had the same issue with lack of ventilation related to the lights being turned off. See item 17 above.
24. Reading Lab: there remains large openings around pipes near the sink.
25. North office: temperature fluctuation remains a problem here but the HVAC system has as many as six separate units influencing this area. System balance has been attempted but may be unachievable with the current systems. Early in the school year there was a report that bees are often found in that area. As of this writing there hasn't been another report of bees.
26. Gym: we discussed the need to clean and disinfect the mats and equipment in the gym. Mr. Taddei was present and described what he does. Additional and routine cleaning and disinfecting will occur; Mr. Kula and Stacey Katz, school nurse, will aid in supplying the correct products for that task.
27. D-wing entry: the tiles near the door need work and should be repaired to prevent tripping as people enter and exit. The walk-off mat may get replaced in the future according to Mr. Kula.

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28. D3: this room was in excellent condition, was comfortably warm and without odor, and the ventilation system was working.
29. D2: shelves in this closet were in disrepair and the volume of items prevented proper cleaning by the maintenance team.
30. D1: this room was noticeably cluttered compared to most other rooms. The closet had the same poor conditions as others listed above, and the bathroom exhaust fan wasn't working.
31. Woodbridge Recreation Office: there had been a report of an odor in this area but there was none during the inspection. This is an area of the school that had similar concern in the past which was found to be related to a plumbing trap that had gone dry.
32. C-wing: there were no complaints about any of the C-wing rooms; a random check revealed contraband chemicals and excess materials on closet floors in a few rooms, otherwise they were well maintained.
33. B-wing entry: there was an odor in the entryway on the day of the inspection. As of this writing, a few dead mice were discovered and were removed from the ventilator thus eliminating the odor. The nearby student lavatory had an exhaust fan that wasn't working.
34. B7: the unit ventilator was blocked. The maintenance team cannot service this unit until access is provided. The air filter was not changed during the most-recent maintenance cycle. This problem needs to be permanently remedied. Unauthorized aerosol hair spray was present.
35. Nurse's storage office: there was a minor odor of perhaps wet cardboard. The cartons that had previously been wet, and supplies unrelated to the nurse's duties, should be removed.
36. D-wing, general: the air filters that were used until recently were a variety that produced a minor odor when they were first installed. These aren't being used any longer and a substitute, without any odor is, currently installed. The filters will continue to get changed four times per year.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John M. Laudano  
Registered sanitarian

Lynn Fox, R.S.  
Chief, Environmental Services

Copy: Al Pullo  
Gina Prisco  
Greg Kula  
Lola Johnson  
Jane Roddy  
Caron Stebinger  
Stacey Katz  
Kenny Foscue, DPH  
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