

August 21, 2017

Dr. Lela A Bridges
Interim Superintendent
Harvey School District 152
16001 Lincoln Avenue
Harvey, IL 60426

Re: Lowell-Longfellow Elementary School

Dr. Dr. Bridges:

In December 2016 I was asked to go to this school because of a water problem. Storm water was entering a classroom from the roof. This problem looked like the water had been entering this room for a long period of time. Upon examining this problem I determined the section of the school was built on a concrete slab and the storm drains were put in the concrete slab and to the catch basin outside the building. The pipe was leaking inside the concrete slab. With the pipe buried in the slab and covered with concrete it was almost impossible to find the pipe. The water was coming up in a seam in the floor. The only way to fix this was to tear up the floor. This meant tearing up a concrete floor in possibly four classrooms to find the pipe that was leaking. The other option was to build a dry well in the area where the water was entering. My suggestion was the dry well. The plumbing company was notified of my suggestion. Upon seeing the job and plumber agreed to follow my plan. At no time anyone associated with this project knew of any asbestos on the floor of this room. The tile 12" vinyl tile, that District had installed. With water coming into this room every time it rained, it was determined to go with this job because water from this leak was going into two other classrooms. The plumber at the instruction of the School District cut 5" trench in the floor, at the location of the leak. It was saw cut with wet blade so as not to create dust. The EPA came to the school at a complaint about mold. But entered to the room where the dry well had been put in. They allegedly found that in cutting the dry well, the contractor had cut some asbestos mastic used to put the original tile down. The contractor only cut the concrete. The tile had come up because of the storm water that had been coming into the room for a very long time. When the District removed the old tile, they did not remove the mastic that was on the floor. They just put the new tile on over it. This made it impossible to know that the old mastic had not been removed therefor the contractor should be held blameless for this problem. This is a District liability.

Sincerely,

Charles Givines