

**NORTH PARK PARENT MEETING  
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2019  
GRAND RAPIDS PARENT UNIVERSITY  
2:05 P.M. – 4:08 P.M.**

The meeting began at 2:05 p.m.

**Present:** Larry Johnson, Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Public Safety and School Security; Mary Jo Kuhlman, Assistant Superintendent of Organizational Learning; Dr. Ron Gorman, Assistant Superintendent of PK-12 Leadership Support; Ken Klomparens, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations; Maureen Capillo, Principal at North Park Montessori; Cindy Peck, Assistant Principal at North Park Montessori; Dan LaMore, Senior Vice President of Christman Company; Chris Decker, Owner-Operator of Micro-Air Consulting, LLC; Dr. Nirali Bora, Family Medical Physician and Medical Director of the Kent County Health Department; Kory Groetsch, Director of the Michigan Department of Public Health and Human Services. There were also translators on hand for anyone that would need this.

**Welcome**

Mr. Larry Johnson welcomed and thanked parents and guests for gathering on short notice to provide information on what has unfolded in the last 24 hours at North Park. He also provided that he is also welcoming everyone on behalf of Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal who could not be here. She had already had a previous engagement out of the state. The district did everything they could last night to try to get her back to Grand Rapids on a flight but could not get her on a connecting flight that would bring her back into Grand Rapids to be here this afternoon.

Mr. Johnson also provided that the district will be putting together frequently asked questions and to answer questions that individuals will have today through the panel. The district has been meeting since Friday, February 15 in the afternoon to make sense of what was discovered yesterday.

Mr. Johnson introduced Ms. Mary Jo Kuhlman who will facilitate the meeting. The focus of this meeting will be to address concerns and answer the questions presented to the best of the ability of the panelists. He introduced Ms. Maureen Capillo who also provided a welcome to the families of North Park Montessori.

**Meeting Protocols**

Ms. Kuhlman provided that everyone is here today to learn what happened, when it happened, what have we done, and what we don't know because this is a developing situation. This is the purpose of the meeting. She then provided that she would like everyone to follow three things to guide the conversation and make the best use of this time.

1. Take a learning stance and know they will not have all of the answers today
2. They will hear from the panelists
3. Open up for Q and A timed for 3 minutes

In addition to this, there will be cards available to write down questions so the district can develop a FAQ. The panelists will take 30 to 45 minutes. The meeting will run until 4:00 p.m. and if anyone still has questions, staff will stay behind to talk to individuals or in small groups.

The district is looking to provide a timeline and future communications. She also asked that only one conversation take place at a time.

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**Panelists**

The panelists introduced themselves consisting of the following individuals: Ken Klomparens, Dan LaMore, Dr. Ron Gorman, Kory Groetsch, Dr. Nirali Bora, and Chris Decker.

**INFORMATION FROM PANELISTS**

Mr. Ken Klomparens provided that the project in the building is an air conditioning project and it also includes heating replacement and window replacement. The construction manager is Christman, they manage the project along with several other similar projects around the district. One of the things we have for each building is the district has an asbestos management plan per federal law that is specific to each building. We have a protocol in place between the district and the construction manager or the contractor to follow. The management plan identifies known asbestos and suspected locations of asbestos.

Protocol is that the construction manager anticipates work in a known area or affects a known area or suspected area to bring it to the district. We then use Micro-Air, our air quality consultant to test and if needed oversee abatement. The process was done twice on this project already. We did abate in the boiler room for insulation, and we did abate over the holiday break when we took windows out that had asbestos in the caulking. We acknowledge process did not work in this case and it affected some work in classroom areas. We do not know where the breakdown is, and we are investigating what happened and why. We don't know. We will find out and correct. We can't say what happened right now.

The work that was done was done on second shift. Students were not in the building. There may have been staff in the building when it started but it was done second shift. Yesterday (February 15, 2019), he received word of the situation shortly before 1:00 p.m. He contacted Larry Johnson.

At 1:00 p.m. district officials met with Christman Company, they filled us in on where we were. Mr. Johnson called a cabinet meeting at 3:00 p.m. which led to this meeting. The district also requested that air sampling be done. Chris Decker from Micro-Air will share what we can and what we do know from air sampling that was done yesterday. In all of this, our priority is the safety of our students and staff and that led to closing the building on Monday and Tuesday and stopping work on Friday evening. Dr. Ron Gorman will share further plans on how the district is addressing students and staff safety.

Mr. Dan LaMore provided that many of his comments are intended to echo what Mr. Klomparens has shared. He wants to help solve the problem and to be here next week to help figure out how to improve a safe environment moving forward. As Mr. Klomparens mentioned, as a construction manager, there is a protocol to follow for us and both parties to follow. Christman reviewed this and acknowledges that the protocol has been followed by both parties (GRPS and Christman).

What they don't know is why this problem occurred even after following protocol. They are also investigating this. The focus of the first 48 hours needs to be creating a safe environment for the staff and students, fixing the problem, and having a healthy environment moving forward.

He provided that to give a better understand, there is about 8 to 10 rooms in the center section of North Park Elementary that has plaster asbestos that has been breached. This has been breached by cutting approximately 2 holes in each room to install HVAC equipment. One of the holes is in the exterior walls,

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a 3' x 3' hole. They sawed out the opening, removed the material, and put a lubricant that is using a wet saw and that process does not circulate a lot of fiber materials into the air so that is encouraging.

The other area is in the plaster ceiling where in some cases in the wall they have to cut out a smaller hole to have a penetration for mechanical piping, a similar situation that it is small and isolated. In all these cases, the work has been done in non-school operations in operating shifts, basically second and third shift. Cleanup has been done at the end of the shift. This detail was provided to give perspective. These are really small and isolated areas. Test results so far are proving very encouraging. The focus today is on safety and health for the students and staff moving forward and getting everyone back into the school. They will work with GRPS staff to figure out what went wrong with the protocol so that this doesn't happen again on this project or any other project for any of the other teams.

Mr. Chris Decker provided that Micro-Aire is the asbestos consultant for the district. They get involved in the asbestos activities that the school district has to deal with on a yearly basis during all of these types of renovations. He provided he would share how he was involved with this project.

Just over a year ago, the district contacted Micro-Aire to inform them of a renovation at North Park and asked that Micro-Aire would do what they typically do for these projects. Micro-Aire goes into the building and takes little pieces of materials all around the building to confirm whether or not materials are asbestos contained. If they do find asbestos containing materials, then they write some type of jobs specification for a contractor to do to accommodate this. Micro-Air did the inspection taking 7 samples of the center original construction area of the building.

Micro-Aire took 7 plaster samples and in those 7 plaster samples found that the base coat of the material (which is the material inside the outer coat) did contain a small degree of asbestos. At that point, they created reports and passed this information on to GRPS as is typical procedure. He estimated that GRPS received the report approximately February 2018. Since that process, they fall away until the actual construction process gets started.

Typically, they are brought in to learn about the activities. Micro-Aire received a call yesterday, inquiring if the plaster is positive. He had to reiterate to the contractor and to the school district that yes there is a small percentage of asbestos in that base coat of plaster. It was determined to clean the school. Because they did not have answers yet, they wanted to be proactive. They wanted to do more to get this area cleaned up as soon as they could so they went into action and called the contractors in and tried to get people out there as early as yesterday. They were not able to get a contractor with several employees out there until early this morning. They also collected air samples – a couple of air samples at this point, very preliminary but we have not detected any asbestos in the air. They plan on taking several more air samples. The air samples are very detailed. They go to an analytical laboratory that tests for specifically how much asbestos is in the sample you sent to us. They are also committed to doing the cleaning process.

Mr. Decker provided that at this moment, only one sample has been sent to the laboratory for the air sample analysis and that sample was shown to him today seeing that it was not detected for asbestos at this time. I do want to say though that one sample is definitely not enough for us or the schools. They

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plan to collect many samples throughout this process. He provided that as the asbestos consultant, Micro-Aire is responsible for the management plans updating those reports.

Dr. Nirali Bora provided that asbestos is primarily studied in people who have long term high exposures. People who work in things like construction or pipe fitting. There is not a lot of data on brief, short term exposure. From the studies that have been done, what we do know is that people who have long-term, high exposure through inhalation of the asbestos fibers. They take it into the lungs and can over time irritate the lining of the lungs. This is over decades 20 to 40 years people have found effects such as increases risks for lung cancer, mesothelioma, and sometimes these fibers can work there way into the abdomen and cause problems. They can increase risks for people again in occupational exposure and risks for things like COPD or chronic lung disease. There isn't a good understanding of what low risk or brief exposure in children can do for long term effects.

Some of the things that we can do now to protect our children is to reduce exposure or limit our exposure to asbestos as best as we can. The other one, is it does not hurt to notify your children's doctors that this has happened or that they may have had a brief exposure. It's not going to have any impact. There are no short term or acute risks or symptoms of short term asbestos exposure. It was suggested to provide this as part of the child's medical history as it could take 20 to 40 years before any effects.

Other things that parents can do is limiting exposure to any second hand smoke. From the studies that have been done for occupational workers, people who were exposed to high doses of asbestos and were also smokers had a much higher risk of lung cancer and mesothelioma. If there are any short term effects like worsening asthma, cough, or anything like that, she does not anticipate that it would be a result of any recent asbestos exposure. She provided that she is not an expert in this field but has provided information based on her understanding.

Mr. Kory Groetsch provided that the role of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is to support local public health. He advised that they heard there is going to be an investigation. He iterated that it is going to be based on data. At this time, there is very little data. He expressed that what we do know is one sample is encouraging. What they do know is that the plaster behind the inner part of the plaster contains some amount of asbestos.

He asked what's going to be figured out through the cleanup and the air testing and the rest of the testing is what is the risk? You heard Dr. Bora say risk. "Is there a risk?" In order for risk to occur or to be elevated, there would have to have been a significant amount coming from the wall into the air where people were in contact with it. The data Mr. Decker is going to collect is going to help answer that question. And what the Health Department can bring to this is that they work both.

He has colleagues going to reach out to the Center of Disease Control and colleagues at the Environmental Protection Agency. They are also going to reach out to and bring the highest minds the best minds to be able to look at the data . They are going to take the time and do it right. They will provide the best answer based on the data that is going to be collected. This is the role of the health department. They are here to support local public health. We are here to support Dr. Bora and her work.

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Dr. Ron Gorman provided he would give an update of what all of what has been heard so far will mean from a school perspective. He recognized a few individuals present that will be supporting this work during this process. He introduced the building principals, Maureen Capello and Cindy Peck. Kim Barron, health services director, who will be handling efforts from a nursing and health perspective; and Matthew Beresford, executive director of early childhood, pk-5/pk-8, and select theme schools, he oversees the North Park Montessori program. Additionally, there are many cabinet members sitting in the audience that he acknowledge.

Dr. Gorman provided that a communication was sent yesterday regarding North Park Montessori being closed on Monday and Tuesday. The district is going to use Monday and Tuesday to prepare and plan for students being housed temporarily at the GRPS University location at 1400 Fuller Avenue NE. The site is where the district does its professional learning. Currently the site does not house students. The site has plenty of room to accommodate the students and classrooms coming from North Park.

Until the district can give everyone assurance that everything is fine and can return to the Big North Park building, they will be using this site. Monday and Tuesday teaching staff will be able to get into their classrooms at the GRPSU site in order to ensure classrooms are ready and has the resources needed for instruction on Wednesday.

They cannot go to North Park and get manipulatives and things of that nature and bring them in to this site. Administration will ensure from a technological perspective that teachers and students have the technology they need to work. The district will ensure that the Montessori program will have the mode of learning continues but will need to ask for patience with us for a little while. Education may look a little more traditional for a couple of weeks or a couple of days.

Dr. Gorman provided that district staff will be here the entire period of time to provide support and assistance. They are also going to provide additional substitute teachers to support teachers and students as this is going to be a new site for students. Additionally, our main focus is to ensure that everything is up and running that education is seamless for the students attending North Park. Phone numbers will be transferred over to the GRPSU site and there is an effort to create as minimal as possible interruption.

The District is working on the details concerning transportation, breakfast, and lunch. The site was the previous home of City High Middle and has a fully functioning cafeteria so the students will not be having sack lunches. They will have warm lunches and breakfast just like at North Park. Programs like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, practices that take place, after school, they will continue to take place. Administration will reach out to inquire about getting a license for LOOP. If this was not to happen, the district will be looking for an alternative solution.

Athletics of course will continue. We will continue to shuttle the middle school kids over to the CA Frost program so we will work through that. We will have a crisis debriefing team in this building for students who are having a difficult time with the transition. So familiar faces that will be at the students disposal in case they are having a difficult time transitioning or they need help navigating systems. And lastly, we are going to wrap our arms around North Park to ensure that learning continues. It is our top priority

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from the Superintendent, Cabinet, the Board of Education to ensure that education continues. Our top priority is to ensure that students are safe.

Dr. Gorman introduced Mr. John Helmholdt, Executive Director of Communications to talk about what subsequent communications and meetings.

Mr. John Helmholdt thanked everyone for coming and expressed appreciation for the turnout about an issue everyone is taking very seriously. He provided that as soon as they heard about the issue, the team went into emergency mode. He reiterated that North Park Montessori is canceled for students on Monday and Tuesday (February 18-19, 2019). This does not affect Wellerwood.

Secondly, administration will provide periodic updates through various forms of technology or social media and will be the means for future communications. Letters will also be sent home with students. Mr. Helmholdt provided his contact information if anyone should have any questions.

He expressed that information sharing is critical. He provided assurance that the district is doing everything they can to address this matter. I do want to reiterate what Mr. Decker said. Yesterday when they learned about this, his team began immediately to take samples. Those samples were overnighted not to Indianapolis, we learned they are not open on Saturdays but actually went to New Jersey so that is a clarification and correction on the communication.

It went overnight to New Jersey. A report came back literally at 1:30 p.m. today and it came back that it was not positive, it was negative for asbestos. That is a good piece of information but that data is not enough. There will be about 75 to 80 different samples taken throughout that building that will be part of our overall risk assessment for our determination. Until we learn more and have more knowledge, the district will keep open communication with North Park families.

Ms. Kuhlman opened the session up for questions and answers. She iterated that they are learning alongside parents. The district and panelists want to hear from everyone. If they can't answer a question, they will provide that they don't know.

### **QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES**

**The following questions were asked by audience members and responses proved by the panelists:**

**Question:** What is second and third shift? My daughter is there early for LOOP in the morning and attends LOOP. When was this detected?

*Mr. LaMore: I will do my best to answer that question. We had stated earlier that it was during non-occupied school hours, and that is the most important part. When I said second or third shift, it is because it crossed over both what is considered a normal second and third shift. All of the work was done and cleaned up when students and staff were not in the building, so that means late at night. If anyone came in early in the building, the students were not there and the cleanup was already done.*

**Question:** Once this project is done, is there any level of asbestos that will remain on the building that will be acceptable for the students to continue to go to school there? And second, even though the air quality may have been sampled, my understanding is that the building got enormous amounts of dust

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residue that was falling on desks, students were asked to clean it up. If that gets on fingers, can it be potentially transmitted, the asbestos be absorbed into the individual system that could potentially be dangerous?

*Mr. Decker: As we have been managing asbestos in all of the school buildings since 1988, these original inspections have been done as mandated by EPA. Since that time a management plan was created for the school. A management plan explains what is asbestos, what might be asbestos, and it also explains the procedures for doing our inspections for these special situations where fiber releases. It tells us kind of a step by step program on how to treat it. By saying that, we manage asbestos in buildings every day, and the idea with that is that we make sure with the materials are in good, intact condition not damaged, so that is our responsibility is to go through and do these inspections with the district. We are looking at what materials still may be asbestos in the buildings and what are the conditions, and if we find something that is damaged, we test it. If we find out that is asbestos, we have it repaired. We have a procedure with that that we have been using with the schools for a very long time, me alone ten years, and it is working out perfectly almost every time.*

*Dr. Bora provided the main way that asbestos gets into the body is through being inhaled. It can also be ingested, but from her understanding it doesn't go through the skin. If there is dust on particles and people don't wash hands and then eat, there is that potential for ingestion.*

**Question:** I have a question for the construction company, you said you made two 3' x 3' cuts, did you isolate where you cut?

*Mr. LaMore: We did not isolate when we did the work. We did the work on a non-occupied shift and keep in mind that at that time, we did not know there was asbestos in the room. That is the key to today's meeting, is when that work happened, we didn't know there was asbestos and that is why we are here taking your questions.*

**Question:** When you make cuts do you wear a face mask because there is other particulates that they are ingesting other than asbestos that is being left to children to sweep this mess up every day? Was it a wet saw or not? My second question is are those edges that are cut left dry as the day goes on?

*Mr. LaMore: As far as the first question, we are construction managers. We don't perform the actual work or manage the actual work, but to be specific to your question, having been on site and seen workers, the majority of the workers would cover themselves and use personal protection. That certainly in our industry, as it sounds like you know, is a continuing reminder to get workers to do that, but in most cases the answer is yes, we continue to encourage them to do that for their own health and safety.*

**Question:** I didn't get to choose which contract was used so it's...?(interrupted by clapping over words).

*Mr. Decker: The schools are, we discussed it, and the schools are willing to do white sampling along with our air sampling to try to make sure, you know that all surfaces are going to be clean and free of any fibers of asbestos as much as possible as this goes on. So, basically what I am saying is the air samples I want to see perfect, and basically a white glove of the surfaces which is going to be our white samples will actually our gloves will be sent to the laboratory for analysis.*

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**Question:** There was testing done previously for asbestos and it was, you knew it was in the building – the school district did know there was asbestos in the building?

*Mr. Decker: Correct.*

**Question:** Knowing the building is over 100 or pretty close to 100 years old, why weren't precautions taken before?

*Mr. Decker: In February we did an inspection of the building and reported to the schools.*

**Question:** That there was some sort of asbestos, correct?

*Mr. Decker: That asbestos was in the building.*

**Question:** Alleging that it is by happenstance that they are find this out?

*Mr. Decker: A reference made that at the beginning of the meeting, that there is an investigation taking place and will have more answers at a later time.*

**Question:** Is there extra concern for children with asthma or immune system issues?

*Dr. Bora: So again, I am not an expert and would have to do more research, but from my understanding there would not be any short-term affects and acute effects on someone who has asthma or immune issues because it doesn't cause any immediate immune issues and cause effects that way, and doesn't cause any bronchial spasms that would contribute to asthma. It is more of a long-term that works its way into the lining and over time causes irritation of the lung linings. It tends to be decades and decades before any symptoms would develop if that were to be the case. I would have to research more to get more details for you, but from my understanding, it would not affect those more.*

**Question:** Can we get an expert?

*Dr. Bora: Yes, we will.*

*Mr. Groetsch: I am not an expert on that either. We are talking with the CDC and the EPA and they have experts.*

*Dr. Bora: I have also reached out to the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, which is based in Chicago for our region with kind of what has been going on here and I am awaiting their responses. They have a team of toxicologists and experts on that.*

**Question:** What do teachers need from us parents? Do they need materials? Do they need volunteers? And if there is not park equipment to access, what can parents do to support children and teachers?

*Dr. Gorman: This weekend and also on Monday when we have the staff, we will be able to answer that for you. We know that there are some things that the teachers need to do their jobs, technology, access to phones, white boards, things of that nature. If they need additional items or additional supports, we will share that with our families on Monday.*

**Question:** How long do you expect that we will be at this school?

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*Dr. Gorman: We are going to be at this campus until we can ensure the safety of our students. We can't give a timeline, we are not going to do that today. We are going to ensure that students are safe before they go back to that building.*

**Question:** There is absolutely no programming and no school on Monday and Tuesday?

*Dr. Gorman: The teachers will be here planning for the students to come in on Wednesday. Except for Wellerwood.*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** The kids at North Park will have two full weeks of lost school days this year after next Tuesday due to inclement weather and this incident. Is there any potential plans to make up for the lost school days?

*Dr. Gorman: Again, 24 hours into this situation, we have not had time to plan what that looks like. We will be working closely with administration to address that.*

**Question:** It is my understanding there is different types of asbestos. I am wondering if someone can comment if it is known what type of asbestos we are dealing with?

*Mr. Decker: The samples that were collected back in January of 2019 show that the two samples that came back positive show chrysotile and 1%.*

**Question:** In terms of the children coming here to learn, we have nothing to learn with. Is it going to be the construction company's responsibility, I know they have insurance, to maybe buy some supplied in the next two days for the kids? I mean, how are we going to do this?

*Dr. Gorman: We are very fortunate enough in the Grand Rapids Public Schools to have two other Montessori programs, so we are hopeful to get support from those other programs. When we have to order materials, those materials come in relatively quickly. It is going to be the job of the Superintendent's Cabinet to ensure the students have the materials they need. If not on Wednesday, a few days after that. But, we want education to be flawless. We want it to be seamless. We will do whatever we can. There shouldn't be many differences from a programming perspective. Of course, we are going to have to track down teacher's editions and manipulatives and things like that nature, but we are absolutely committed to doing that. GRPS will take care of that, yes sir.*

**Question:** With our tax dollars?

*Dr. Gorman: We are fortunate enough that we have materials at the service building, we have materials at other schools and we have two Montessori programs. So therefore, our goal is to use those first.*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** Was the daily clean-up done wet?

*Mr. Klomprens: I don't know if we can answer that. We will go back and find out. I will put it on the list. I can't tell you if it was done wet.*

**Question:** I was there as recently as February 14, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in the school, were workers present? Why were they there? Why are we hearing over and over again they were there during

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second and third shifts? Indicated on Thursday men and gear looking at the ceiling and the main entryway of the school. A man in a suit was investigating the ceiling.

*Mr. LaMore: I didn't mention that previously. I wasn't there on Thursday. That was somebody who looks like me I guess. There is throughout this entire duration some amount of work that has happened during the school day. It is work that is non-asbestos related, we are positive of that, and it is also work that we can perform in the building without disrupting students and staff. A very valid question.*

**Question:** So where was the plaster wall construction work done that was involved with asbestos?

*Mr. LaMore: The majority of the plaster wall work is in the classrooms in the center portion of the building, center meaning not north not south, right in the middle.*

**Question:** So upper elementary, lower elementary? Can I get some clarification which wing of the school? Sorry, the center of the school is the gym and the office, not a classroom. Middle School level is that asbestos? What classrooms were affected?

*Mr. Klomparens: We will verify the classrooms and put the response of the actual numbers where they are available. Just a comment, there were public projects going on at the same time that may have some construction workers, information management team had some cable being run that was separate. There may have been some work that was unrelated to this.*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** Are you working to handle the medication management for students? How many air samples... There are three questions to this, do you want me to ask them all at once? How many air samples were taken and the location within the building? And the location where asbestos was detected?

*Mr. Decker: A preliminary sample was taken that we just reported to you that did not contain asbestos. This sample was collected in the lower gym storage room. There is a couple of reasons for that. The school was occupied and kids were still in classrooms so we went to act in their best interest and took a location right away. The sample taken was in the dirtiest are of the school*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** What is the location where asbestos was detected?

*Mr. Decker: I don't have the actual plan right in front of me, but we do know that the asbestos is located in tunnels, in walls, in ceilings, on pipes. We also know that it is in the base coat of the plaster. There may be some small amount of floor tile in the building that may be asbestos contained as well.*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** Are you going to handle medication management for students?

*Dr. Gorman: We will be working very closely with the folks in health services in the district and we will have an answer as it relates to that one relatively quickly.*

**Question:** Earlier it was mentioned that work was being done in the building during second shift, and there were no students present, maybe some staff. My students are doing activities from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and 99% of the time my class had to work around the construction. Most of the time I see it in the main hallway ripping into the ceilings or in the gym. If projects like this can be this much of a risk or more to the students why is it taking place while there are students in the building during programs

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essential to the students in need at GRPS. The parents, staff and students that are dedicated to this program feel that our health and safety is being disregarded.

*Mr. LaMore: I can give you part of an answer to your question. What I am hearing from these recent questions involve shift work. We need to come back to really a more detailed answer. And the reason I say that is because it isn't black and white, where I can say everything is done night shift or everything is done day shift. There are certain activities that can be done during the day and certain activities that can't because they disrupt school, so the asbestos related work has been done at night. We are sure of that. There is other work that we work with the district to coordinate to do during the day, or some of the work has been done on the break times of the school. So, your question is valid. It tells us that we need to give you more detailed answer about the specific work we do. I don't think I would have ever expected to tell you all the points today and what goes into a construction project, but I hear lots of questions that are related to that and we will do our best to give more detail about that.*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** why was the boys basketball team practice not canceled if you are taking this seriously?

*Dr. Gorman: Mr. Johnson, may I defer to you on that please? Mr. Johnson: When we were forming this yesterday, we started meeting about 1:00 p.m., and to be honest with you it was 6:00 p.m. before we really got any direction of what was really going on. Had we known what we learned later, believe me we would have gotten everyone out of the building. Again, I don't know when the breach actually happened, but I can only tell you when we started collecting information and started pulling our team together. I pulled Cabinet together at 3:00 p.m. and we did not walk out of that building until 6:00 p.m. because there was important phone calls we needed to make to get some of these individuals here and to start responding to us because we had questions that needed answered. So that is the only reason. In fact, I wasn't aware that practice had continued. I thought all activities had ceased.*

*Mr. Kurt Johnson, Executive Director of Athletics: Just to kind of reiterate part of that, a lot of our work was on a critical timeline and it was very sensitive and so we were still in the midst of learning what the impact was very close to dismissal times and that is why there wasn't any special communication right around dismissal that we were able to do in a timely fashion. About the time we landed on what actually took place, it was pretty close to 6:00 p.m. At that point in time, things had ceased and all programs cleared. Again as part of our journey, all of our work was not asbestos related and so we had to make a determination as to what was going on and make sure we were informed before we put information out and shared with you that we had the correct information.*

**Question:** Some of those medications are very regulated by the government. You just can't get a whole new set of pills and they are also costly to replace. Is there a plan for that right now?

*Mr. Johnson: There is a plan for that, and we have been talking with our health aides. Some of those items are refrigerated and some not, but we are going to work very quickly to see how we can get back into the building and have those items removed that are encapsulated inside of a refrigerator or a desk drawer.*

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**Question:** Is there any recommendations at this point for any asbestos that may have been tracked home by children?

*Mr. Groetsch: The question is what about the concern about asbestos being dragged out. What we know so far is we had a breach of protocol. And we know that the air sample is negative for any of the asbestos fibers of any type. We know that the material in the wall does have some level, cutting was done and there was a protocol breach. The question is how much and where is it? We have no data. At this point we don't have any special directions for anyone because we have no ability to quantitate what that would be. Continue to do your normal washing. When you think about hard surfaces, using wet soap and water and wiping down if you are concerned. At this point we don't have data that there has been meaningful track out in any way. The other thing you should realize, just as sort of an off-point just to say, if you go read about asbestos on the CDC website, what they will let you know is that we all get some background exposure no matter where you are at. No matter what you are doing. it is not possible to get to zero. To your specific question, though, no we don't, there is no special advice at this point. We are going to follow the data. I can't say that we won't come back with some, but we have no data to base it off. We are data driven group and that is where we are at.*

**Question Read by the Facilitator:** As many parents have children at Wellerwood and North Park, how will we address the timing of dropping kids off at both sites without making them tardy?

*Dr. Gorman: We will be working with our Transportation Department, Chief of Staff Mr. Larry Johnson today and tomorrow to address all of those timely issues because we know there will be timing issues because it takes a little longer to get from one place to another. So therefore, we will get that addressed for you in the FAQs, and we will have to tighten up some transportation pieces as we move closer to Wednesday.*

**Question:** What about parents who drop their kids off?

*Dr. Gorman: Walkers, we will have transportation for walkers. So those students who normally walk to North Park, they will get on a bus at North Park and brought here. If for whatever reason it is an inconvenience for to drive all the way here if they are normally dropping their students off, they can drop their students off at the walker bus and that bus will bring them to this site. Sorry if I was unclear. Thank you.*

**Question:** My concern is I haven't heard that testing has been done in the cafeteria. The cafeteria is also in the center right behind the gym. You guys looked in to that at all? Where the food for the kids is being prepared?

*Mr. Decker: As we went into action yesterday to start the cleanup process, we did a walk-through of the building and did a visual inspection. This morning we got back in there as early as we could with a crew and we started working on a cleanup plan, and we were also, again, running air samples throughout the as well. So, when yesterday didn't touch the cafeteria, today I can tell you that is where we started, and we are going to make that the first area to work for clean area when we need to meet there or get clean materials of the building. We need to clean that space first.*

**Question:** Are the results of the tests made through this process going to be made public?

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*Mr. Decker: I'm sure the district will make it possible to view data. We will have a chain of command, of course, but there will be distribution of information.*

*Mr. Klomparens: At the district, we commit to making those results public. What we need to do is to have an interpretation so layman can understand what it means. We can put out there that so many fibers per cubic centimeter doesn't mean anything to me. Someone has to tell us what that means. Is that good or bad or what? We will provide with an interpretation.*

**Question:** So, you won't put raw results out?

*Mr. Klomparens: Yes, we will put raw results out but with an interpretation so we can understand it.*

**Question:** Now, should we have our children tested? Should we take them for DOBS? Because my son has experienced a loss of appetite the last few weeks

*Dr. Bora: At this point there are no good tests for asbestos. The only way to find out if asbestos has been in the lung tissue is to do a lung biopsy. There are actually no tests out there that we would recommend that would adequately measure any exposure of asbestos. There are no blood tests, no urine tests. Some of these tests may be useful for heavy exposure, people who have been exposed for decades. But not in the short term. Again, long term a chest x-ray can be helpful but with this kind of a brief exposure it is not going to show anything. Experts don't recommend any kind of testing at this point.*

**Question:** my son also goes to a daycare on Friday when the LOOP program isn't provided. How is he going to get from daycare to here?

*Dr. Gorman: We would have to work with some of those daycare providers to see if we can continue to provide that transportation or to ensure that they know where the students are. We will work through all those logistical things. We can talk alter if you want about which daycare provider or if there are other daycare providers that shuttle from North Park to the daycare service. We would love to continue to work with that.*

**Question:** When do we find out what classrooms were affected. What is the timeline? I know you guys have to look into it. What's the timeline? A week? Two weeks?

*Mr. Klomparens: We will sit down with the construction manager when they do their work and put the time in, and as soon as they ask the question answered is posted on the communication that John mentioned. That will be one of the questions. It should be Monday or Tuesday.*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** Does dust have an impact or risk in exposure?

*Construction: They are going to do two types of sampling. They are going to do white sampling and we will look at that, and then we will take the air sampling for breathing in. The dust, if it gets stirred up and gets in the air you breathe in, that is one way. If – let's go back to the key point, the difference between dust and asbestos. We are concerned about something very specific, asbestos. If there is asbestos in the dust and that asbestos gets stirred into the air you breathe in, that would be a concern. Or, if there was asbestos and a child put their hand on it and licked their hand, swallowing it as the doctor said, is a lesser*

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*but not insignificant concern. Touching it, however, dermal contact, going across the skin concept, that is really not the concern. So, the concern is licking it or inhaling it and breathing it in.*

**Question:** What is the typical process for the asbestos report once you make the report? What does that typically look like once you hand it off to GRPS? It sounds like you did what you needed to do in the report and handed it off to them? still don't understand what happened at that point.

*Mr. Klomparens: The protocol that had happened somehow was not complete this time. The report is shared with the construction manager so they can identify where there workers may be impacted and known for potential locations for asbestos. They then inform us. We hire, whether we need additional testing or they can contract it or the district hires that directly. As is done, there is air monitoring to make sure it is safe to access that area again.*

**Question:** It goes to the construction company and then GRPS?

*Mr. Klomparens: It goes to GRPS and we share with the construction company, and then they share back.*

**Question:** So, it went to you?

*Mr. Klomparens: It went through my office.*

**Question:** And then from that point, it did not go to the construction company?

*Mr. Klomparens: They (the construction company) had the information. Because we work together. It was successful in both the boiler room and windows. We do not know where the lack of implementation came this time. That is what we are going to investigate.*

**Question:** And that will be made public to us?

*Mr. Klomparens: We haven't talked about that but I don't know why not.*

**Question:** I don't see anyone here specifically from Dean Transportation, and they struggle to get my kid to school on time in the regular location, so can somebody explain how they will be looped in?

*Mr. Larry Johnson: I'm representing Dean Transportation because their manager's mother passed away and they could not be here. I talked to them this morning and so we are going to work with them with the routing. I'm calling Kelly Dean, the owner, directly tonight so that we can work with the routes. We will have to re-route some busses to make sure that they can get those buses done. I hear your concerns about timing matter on this and that would be of utmost importance to make sure those routes, those drivers are making those routes, and the timing matter. Let me add one more thing that from the Public Safety Department, I will make sure there is an officer up at the school to make sure that kids are getting on buses, that no kids who may arrive late get left, and vice versa when we go back there to make sure all kids are dispersed.*

**Question:** Will the drivers still be the same so that we have some consistency, especially for our kids on special needs transportation?

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*Mr. Larry Johnson: We will try to make all of that happen. Some of the special needs runs will not change. Those drivers should remain the same. The new routes that will be picked up will be the walkers who walked to the school. Those will be the drivers that the kids will not know that transport kids here. We will work very closely with Dean Transportation to make sure this happens in a timely manner.*

**Question Read by Facilitator:** Which rooms have been affected? Which specific rooms were drilled in?

*Mr. Klomparens: We will find out and that will be posted in the communication that goes out. I can't give you the room numbers but we will get those for you.*

**Question:** Can someone please take responsibility, where's the responsibility? Who dropped the ball?

*Ken Klomparens: That's what we are investigating. We don't know where that happened. We will find out.*

**Question:** Does anyone in the medical field have a child that goes to North Park?

Individual answered this question from the audience. She has asbestos in her house. Is she concerned yes, is she freaking out – no. There is a certain level – everyone has been exposed at some point or another. It has been around.

Dr. MacAfee spoke and indicated she does not have a child at North Park. I am a parent and there is nothing more frightening than the thought that something might happen to your child. And that is entirely out of your control. What we are finding here is to bring you the best information we can. Yes, something happened, protocols were written, protocols were followed part of the time somehow we came in contact with that plaster. That is something we are looking into, they are looking into and will continue to keep testing.

The problem with asbestos, especially with kids is there just isn't a lot of good data. I've been researching it (FOR's) been researching it but what can you tell me today about asbestos exposure for kids. There's just not a lot of good data. There is some data that says that younger than 15 is better than older than 15 but the things that we have told you that is that we can't get around that. There is no test. There is nothing we can do right now to check your kid to see what kind of exposure they have. Hopefully, what it looks like is the exposure is fairly minimal but we don't know that yet. There is a lot more data to They are going to be working on the responsibility end of it. Someone asked earlier if we can get an expert – we can. We will get someone here she works for the state of Michigan and reports to the governor to answer these questions. She is not an asbestos expert either.

**Question:** Was there a risk assessment done on this project to say that it is OK to be done during school time and that means from August to June (not from June to August)? Every job nowadays on a construction platform has a risk assessment. I would assume between you two or your two organizations and will that be public for us to look at to see what that assessment said? What is being done to make sure the workers are doing their proper due diligence with silica.

*Mr. Klomparens: Your question about the risk assessment, I don't know if we would call it the same thing but during the initial phases of design with our engineering firm and we brought the construction*

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*manager in. We looked hard at when we could do this job. This job could not be done in two months. There are no workers available even if we could work three shifts, we couldn't have done it in three months. There was a determination and an analysis made of the schedule when to get, when would be performed and when would we complete. I will go back through the file and see what I can find to address that specific, I don't know if it is the same format you are thinking of. As far as the silica I'm going to ask Christman to answer that.*

**Mr. LaMore:** *I wish I could answer as clear as 29CRF:1626.166, that gentleman here happens knows exactly what I am talking about. This is a daily battle to try and get our workers to abide by. And I know most workers they just want to get the job done but if they can do a shortcut to get the job done they are not trying to harm themselves or anybody else they are just trying to get their job done. This one right here says 2016 is a very difficult task.*

*It was very important to the district to have air conditioning. As far as the silica answer, we are just going to have to put that in the response in the written response and deal with silica it is very detailed, It is very important. It is way too much of a question to be done with in this group without having all of the answers.*

**Question Read by the Facilitator:** What do we tell our kids?

*Mr. Groetsch: The first thing is at this point, we don't have a good answer – we are all very concerned. There was protocol breach. We're here because we are very, very concerned about asbestos. We don't know that there has been hazardous exposures to asbestos. I've added a word, just thrown in a word – hazardous, right. Because if we heard, we all get some exposure to asbestos. But the question is it hazardous? We don't know that. At this point it is being comforting to your kids. If it was my kids, I wouldn't go into technical detail. I would say we have to change schools are doing some work – maybe some of your kids would be able to handle a little more detail than others. I'm not going to judge. I would do what is comfortable that is what I would do as a parent. It is not so much standing up there as an official. I'm telling you as a parent that is how I would handle it. Because we do not have scientific data to tell you anything is wrong*

**Question:** I have a 7 year old with asthma and he was asking what if this happens at my school?

*Dr. Gorman: From the district's perspective we are going to air on the side of caution and not put any students in danger. That is why before we send students back to school, we are going to make sure the school is safe so that is what we are doing from the district perspective. Please share that with your children. I'm a GRPS parent, there are many GRPS parents in the room and totally understand what you are going through but our number one concern is student safety.*

**Question:** How soon will parents whose kids participate in the LOOP program know that a license will be granted for this site?

*Dr. Gorman: Sometimes it is difficult to get folks on the phone over the weekend. Our top priority on Monday morning will be to send out that communication. We'll have other meetings on Monday so that will be a top priority for us. If for whatever reason we cannot make LOOP work, we'll think of some*

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*alternative. But as of right now we are very hopeful that we will be able to get the permits for this building.*

**Question:** this building before was vacant, are we completely sure that there are no mold issues or anything like that to test here so we can make sure we are not going through an asbestos situation for like a mold or some other issue in this building?

*Mr. Klomparens: This building is vacant as a school. It is not vacant building. It is used as a professional development building. We have a regular custodian here. There is daily cleaning. I guess I am saying g maybe we should pull a test and see but it was not sitting empty.*

**Question:** Could they get a test not a maybe we do?

*Mr. Klomparens: Asked Chris to have a test pulled today. An audience member shared the school would feel more comfortable if they were going to another safe building and not have an issue like that.*

**Question:** We had some girl scouts that were going to bring cookies to the school, Girl Scouts that were going to bring 2,000 boxes to other Girl Scouts so we are not going to go there. Can they come here or Wellerwood? I can take this offline.

*Dr. Gorman: We prefer those went to Wellerwood. Are you comfortable with that? If there are logistics with that get with Ms. Capillo, me, or Mr. Johnson. We will work it out.*

**Question:** I would really like to know the date each classroom was drilled into? Who discovered it and how long? If it was six weeks when the first one was done, why is it that we just discovered it yesterday afternoon? (Clarified: When was the first cut made, do you have timeline?)

*Mr. LaMore: We will research that response.*

**Facilitator Reiterated Question:** when the first cuts were made. Audience member, I am assuming that you don't know when the first cuts were made in each classroom/date?

*Dan LaMore: It is just too big of an answer because there are multiple cuts. I think it should go on the list for the questions. The first cuts were in November.*

**Question:** I am assuming those eight or nine kids are the most effected in the entire school. It may be useful to know when the cuts were made did they do them all in one day back in November or was it spread out?

*Mr. LaMore: Thank you for the question, can you please put that in the written questions?*

**Question:** Knowing that there has been asbestos exposure going back to November, the kids have been sweeping up dust and probably tracking it in the school and out of the school, is it wise for big North Park to be the drop off point for walkers and other people? When the asbestos could be tracked out to the rest of the property. Would it best to have Wellerwood, or some other spot as the exchange point in keeping the asbestos?

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*Dr. Gorman: We thank you for bringing that to our attention. When we work out our transportation plan, we will determine pick up and drop off spots but we do appreciate you bringing that to us. We will consult with our medical staff to ensure that all of our students are safe from a pick up and drop off perspective. We will find the best site possible. Thank you.*

**Question:** If you could maybe clarify the testing as far as the timeline goes,? When are those going to happen? And how much of it is going to happen and how much of it is going to happen?

*Mr. Decker: Yes, we are already in the middle of cleaning up the cafeteria currently and the rest of the school is being sampled for air.*

**Question:** I hate to interrupt you here. I think the most important thing is that we find out how much our kids were exposed. *The number one thing that should happen is testing, right?*

*Mr. Decker: Yes.*

**Question:** When we cleanup the asbestos, then we don't have the answers of how much our kids were exposed.

*Mr. Decker: Yes, we are running what we call background air samples right now, background levels is all that we have. We are running samples now to see what the levels are like and then we will have our samples after we have a very good space.*

**Question:** For transparency sake, are there third party health representatives from the Health Department that are going to be present monitoring in the school monitoring such actions?

*Mr. Decker: I can say one for sure that is taking interest, MIOASHA is involved and they are taking this very seriously.*

**Question:** How can we support teachers, what can we do to really help those individuals who work harder than the pay they are getting?

*Dr. Gorman: The reason we are going to be all hands on deck next week is to ensure that our staff members have their needs met for their students. Timeline from MAP testing just completed but we are getting into the heavy testing season and we need to be sensitive to all of that. From an evaluation perspective, we are going to put the safety of our students first before we start getting into all of those other things. We still need to do those things by law but we are not going to make that a top priority. The top priority is student and staff safety.*

**Question:** I was just wondering from a district perspective how the person that oversees elementary administration, what kinds of supports do we put into place for these staff members for our new principal so they are feeling safety? Because safety is more than just physical safety. They need to feel that their mental and physical stability is being taken care of as well.

*Matthew Beresford: We had that same conversation with the staff at 11:00 a.m. this morning. It's been a long day. We had a laughable moment when we had a conversation about the classroom experience and how that weighs into their evaluation and observations. We will have grace and understanding for that because that is the Montessori way. It will be supported.*

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**Question:** Can you commit that our teachers will not have to spend their own money to provide an adequate learning environment?

Dr. Gorman: *Absolutely. They won't have to spend their own.*

**Question:** My second question, I'm confused because we heard there's been six weeks of this drilling or cutting into this particular plaster but you just said the first cut happened in November. I think we need to understand because that is a very different story?

Mr. Klomprens: *This first came to light yesterday. Information we had at that time was it started the first of January and is six weeks. Christmas went back last night. This morning they reviewed their records and found that it started in November.*

**Question:** That is a big, big difference and that is a big deal to us. As parents, we really want to trust and there is a lot of communication involved and we want to trust and we are trying to trust that our kids best interest is at heart. And lip service is great saying that kids best interest is at heart that is great and wonderful. But that doesn't do anything. When in this situation I feel like how can we continue to have a level of mutual trust that wasn't brought up?

Mr. Klomprens: *Today in trying to determine exactly what to present, we overlooked that as important to this issue. I'm sorry, that is all I can say. Your correct, we should have said that but we missed it. There is a ton of information we are trying to share.*

Ms. Kuhlman: Remember when we said we are learning It is an intense time. From 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to this very moment, is intense for this team. We are scrambling to get the experts in with us and it was not done intentional, that is all I want to say is that we are trying to learn together. Remember our learning stance.

**Question:** Cutting started in November, and something happened yesterday that brought it to your attention that there was an asbestos exposure. What happened and why?

Mr. Klomprens: *Cutting took place, I'll let Mr. LaMore be specific if he need to. It was there understanding that there was a question by one of the construction workers that said my experience is that does lead to a re-check changed the whole track as to why we are here. We found out he was right, there was an error. We had to try and go back and find out how that happens. We don't know at this point but it was a construction workers question.*

**Question:** Was that verified yesterday morning or sometime in the last two months?

Mr. Klomprens: *I'll have to check the exact time when – no it was yesterday or the end of Thursday. I can't tell you, we'll have to find out. I don't have an immediate response.*

**Question:** What exactly is the process that is supposed to be followed to make sure that this doesn't happen?

Mr. Klomprens: *If I misunderstand your question. Again, we do not know where that lack came from. We have to find out.*

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**Question:** Tests were done years ago and it is on a record that they are supposed to consult. What is the actual protocol? Is that available on a link? Is that available for us to see online? State laws, regulations?

*Mr. Klomparens: We will put protocol and process in the response so that it goes step by step. When we find out where the breach was, we'll identify it and correct it. We haven't figured that out yet.*

**Question:** I am wondering will there be samples of the carpet?

*Mr. Decker: The sampling is going to be for the air, and also doing surfacing, sampling on horizontal surfaces and then there is a method for carpeting. Basically, we call it a micro vacuum sample and we use the same type of sets we use for air sampling. And we literally vacuum the carpet in a one square foot square area or we try to find out a concentration for it.*

**Question:** What areas of it?

*Mr. Decker: I think we will check them all.*

**Question:** I can pinpoint exactly where they were working at that time if you need that information?

*Mr. Decker: That will be available. We are working very hard to get that done.*

**Question:** I think second shift needs to be defined in the hours?

*Dr. Gorman: We are hopeful that Monday or Tuesday we'll have another session (to meet with parents) to provide some updates. We are working to see what that looks like as well as looking for some experts to accompany us at that time so it is not just district employees at that time but also some folks that can answer some technical questions as it relates to what happened. We are working through that now. We are hopeful that before kids go back to school we'll make something happen.*

**Question:** As far as the next set of air samples, are you guys going to try to simulate what was happening the last six weeks? For instance, I got trained on drilling asbestos, we're taught that drilling safety we can wet it all down after a certain amount of holes – we have to stop for the day. One day can mean a lot so the next day we go back and we're fine again. So, one thing for you if you're interested in an air quality test is I'm wondering are you guys going to simulate the cuts you made in the last two or three weeks. Then you make them and test so we can see what is happening six weeks ago?

*Mr. Decker: We are mandated by the federal government to use what we call aggressive air sampling when we collect samples which we are sending to the lab for very specific testing of exact asbestos fibers. It is basically bringing in leaf blowers into the space and we blow all the air and dust around our samples using leaf blowers.*

**Question:** But cleanup has already been done?

*Mr. Decker: We only made a cleanup in one area because we need a clean area to stand. And we are going to move through the rest of the school as fast as we can.*

**Question:** But there has been cleanup every day since November?

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*Mr. Decker: To answer the second part of your question, I would say we have a lot of non-abatement to do in the school. We have a lot of classrooms still to be involved. We have a lot of duct work that's been in place. I'm just catching up with this but I can see there is going to be an abatement effort moving forward – no plaster is just going to get disturbed without its proper containments and using proper procedures.*

**Question:** After the report comes out two days from now, I don't know if you guys will have a full report or something preliminary but after the full report if you guys all have your time which I am sure you guys will need to get a proper report, we're going to need time to look over that report can we have another one of these so that we can have, we'll have better educated questions – you might have more answers after the report.

*Dr. Gorman: Absolutely.*

Mr. Klomparens: We understand some level of cleanup took place so our baseline is limited from what it is going to tell us. The construction manager can go in and make the cut. We will, we can try and simulate somewhat. The question we had and we will talk to our medical team outside, is that going to be accurate enough to tell us anything or not. If it is then we will go ahead and do and take a sample.

**Question:** If the dust was inhaled or students cleaned the dust, or ate upstairs – do we know if any of this is considered large exposure or extra dangerous?

*Mr. Groetsch: That sort of information I think helps when we sit down and work with the team to figure out what and all the ways people have been exposed and some of those considerations have been followed and what we know when Mr. Decker is doing sampling and what we are looking for so all I can say is thank you for that information – once we get the data back I think that is when we can try to answer those sort of considerations if somebody did that once a month that was that. It is not going to be an easy answer so thank you for that information.*

*Dr. Bora: I also want to thank you. I reached out to colleagues at the Environmental Health Service Unit with regions throughout the country and they have a group of experts who talk to toxicologists, people that do this on a daily basis. I reached out to them this morning. With what you just told me is really helpful because I can mention to them that this is another one of the exposures that we can pay attention to and thinking about as they help me and our team here develop answers for you and questions and thinking about what we can do next. Thank you*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Kuhlman thanked the panel and all the experts that came in on last minute notice. I especially want to thank you as parents for sitting through this and asking really hard questions, they are hard questions at times. But I feel that we all care. We care about you, we care about your students and our staff. We all want to be healthy so thank you for helping to us to work through this and to find a way through resolutions and I encourage you to stay with us. We'll have more information as we promised and work to answer all of the questions. We appreciate your time so thank you very much.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.