

Petal Robertson

President
Montclair Education Association
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January 16, 2021

TO: Dr. Jonathan Ponds, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Latifah Jannah, Board of Education President
Ms. Priscilla Church, Board of Education Member
Dr. Alfred Davis, Jr., Board of Education Member
Ms. Jessica de Koninck, Esq., Board of Education Member
Mr. Sergio Gonzalez, Board of Education Member
Ms. Eve Robinson, Board of Education Member
Ms. Allison Silverstein, Board of Education Member

RE: NJEA Notes from Walkthroughs on January 14, 2021

Greetings,

Below, please find notes from Ed Lasser, NJEA Health and Safety Consultant, regarding the Montclair Public School District building walkthroughs conducted on January 14, 2021 at Edgemont and Watchung.

- Isolation rooms are not adequately set up
- District has a complete reliance (on the buildings we visited) on fresh air supplementation but the top windows can't be open as they were in the original design, therefore, ventilation is not as designed
- Spacing is not adequately marked in all rooms
- Gyms and cafeterias do not seem to have adequate ventilation
- Many bathrooms and isolation rooms lack exhaust ventilation
- Masking rules and enforcement?
- Building PRT meeting minutes?
- Inadequate hand sanitizers and no instructions
- Lack of hand washing signs
- Plexiglass dividers needed in therapy CST and guidance settings
- Inadequate filtration and air exchange
- Fresh air purging protocol at the end and the beginning of the day? Is it written anywhere?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Robertson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Petal Robertson
President
Montclair Education Association

cc: MEA Executive Board
Mr. Ed Lasser, NJEA Health & Safety Consultant
Mr. Ryan Edwish, NJEA UniServ Field Representative

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RE: WEC Report, January 12, 2021

Greetings,

Below, please find the letter from Allen Barkume, Industrial Hygiene Consultant for the New Jersey Work Environment Council, regarding the Montclair Public School District building walkthroughs sent on January 13, 2021.

The Vice President of the MEA, joined by the district Business Administrator arrived at Glenfield School in Montclair on Tuesday January 12, 2021 to find two of the four centralized mechanical ventilation systems serving the building non-operational. This finding is despite a specific request, confirmed by the business administrator at the time of the visit, that all buildings have their ventilation systems in operation during the visit. Neither the custodian present in the building, nor the remotely located, contracted system managers could provide an explanation for the lack of operation of the systems. This left an entire wing of the building without mechanical ventilation, much of which contains rooms with no windows, and therefore no other means of ventilation.

Any attempt to reopen this school building to staff and students under such unacceptable conditions and during what is likely the peak of an ongoing outbreak of an airborne infectious disease should be absolutely and with no exception stopped until this issue has been diagnosed, repaired, and re-inspected by all stakeholders affected.

I look forward to providing continued support in this matter.

Regards,

Allen

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PR' with a stylized flourish.

Petal Robertson
President
Montclair Education Association

cc: MEA Executive Board
Mr. Ed Lasser, NJEA Health & Safety Consultant
Mr. Ryan Edwish, NJEA UniServ Field Representative