



**Department of
Education**

Cathleen P. Black
Chancellor

Kathleen Grimm
Deputy Chancellor

January 31, 2011

Ms. Diane Bush and Ms. Michelle Ciulla Lipkin
Co-Presidents, on behalf of the PS 199 Executive Board
PS 199M
270 West 70th Street
New York, NY 10023

Re: PCB Pilot Program at PS199M

Dear Ms. Bush and Ms. Ciulla Lipkin:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 20, 2011, concerning PCB testing, monitoring, and remediation at PS 199M under the EPA pilot program. Although this will respond to your letter and specific inquiries and requests, we would first like to review the results of the air tests conducted in November, 2010. All classrooms and functional spaces in the school were below EPA guidance air levels except for two classrooms where readings were approximately 150 ng/m³ or just over the 100 ng/m³ guidance level. The gymnasium did not exceed the guidance level in the last two rounds of air sampling.

1. As you are aware, interior caulk was removed several years ago as part of the window replacement project. Additional caulk containing PCBs was removed in certain classrooms under the EPA pilot program. All remaining interior caulk was encapsulated before school opened as an interim measure.

Testing data from the SCA's work this past summer at PS 199M and the other schools participating in the pilot program was submitted to the EPA for its evaluation. Based upon this information, a preferred remedy will be selected for implementation in each pilot school this summer.

2. The SCA is prepared to remove exterior caulk around the doors and louvers when weather conditions permit. Several consecutive days over 40 degrees are needed to perform this work effectively. As soon as outdoor temperatures are warm enough to proceed, we will do so. We will advise the principal and

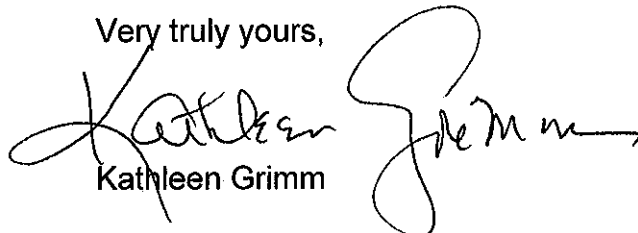
custodian when we are ready to commence work and develop a schedule that will not disrupt the school community.

3. We have evaluated the effectiveness of the rooftop exhaust system servicing the two classrooms where PCB air levels were marginally over EPA guidance in the most recent tests. It was found to be functioning as originally designed. However, we are assessing whether installation of a more powerful motor in these fans would increase replacement fresh air. The Division of School Facilities has also instructed that the fans be operated at all times. In addition, opening, even slightly, a window or two during the day (if not uncomfortable for teachers and students) or in the evening in each classroom, will help facilitate air exchange.
4. Currently, air testing under winter time conditions is scheduled for the Presidents Week school vacation. We will coordinate this effort with the principal and custodian. Subsequent air testing this year will depend, in part, on the results obtained in February. Additional air testing will be conducted this summer in accordance with the EPA pilot program. Soil remediation in those few areas that exceeded 1ppm is also scheduled for the summer recess.

Last, all of the older fluorescent light fixtures in the building were removed and replaced last summer prior to school opening. Incandescent light fixtures, such as those found in the basement, do not have ballasts or any other component potentially containing PCBs so they were left in place. All remaining PCB caulk inside the school, including the basement, will be addressed this summer under the pilot program.

We appreciate your continuing interest in this issue and assure you that the DOE and SCA are committed to the healthful environment of your school. We will schedule a meeting with the PTA to review the results of February's air test as soon as we receive them.

Very truly yours,


Kathleen Grimm

cc: Lorraine Grillo
Ross Holden
John Shea