

Department of Education  
Chancellor Dennis Walcott  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Department of Education  
Deputy Chancellor Kathleen Grimm  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007

October 11, 2011

RE: PCB remediation, testing and monitoring at PS 199

Dear Chancellor Walcott and Deputy Chancellor Grimm,

On behalf of the PS199 PTA, we are following up on your letter dated October 4, 2011 regarding the PCB contamination at our school.

We are very happy to hear that the encapsulant for the interior door paint was tested over Columbus Day weekend. We look forward to hearing the results of the test and hope that we will be able to move quickly to get all the doors encapsulated. Thank you for sending us the air sampling trends. They are helpful in understanding the testing history at our school.

While we appreciate the work you are doing, we do continue to have serious concerns regarding your response to our other requests. We do not believe the current plan is urgent enough to address the serious issue of PCB contamination at PS199, nor do we believe that there is an aggressive enough search for the source of our contamination.

1) We do not believe that seasonal testing is sufficient, given the recent dramatic rise in the amount of airborne PCBs. Despite all of the remediation work that has been done to date, the air samples taken at the end of the summer were alarmingly high. We now have large carbon filters in every one of our classrooms and commons areas. We urge you to reconsider our request for monthly testing to ensure that the air our children is breathing is safe and that PCB levels are within the EPA guidance levels.

2) We are disappointed that you have declined our request to test the brick and mortar of our school building. Although the SCA contends that exterior materials are not the source of the PCB contamination, our position is that any potential source of PCBs should be investigated. We urge you to

test all possible sources and remind you that the light fixtures, dangerous sources of PCBs, were initially overlooked. The ensuing delay in their remediation unnecessarily extended our children's exposure to elevated levels of PCBs.

We must do whatever we can to ensure that this matter is addressed with the urgency it deserves. The issues involving PCBs have been an unfortunate, yet regular part of our lives at PS199 since 2008. Our children and our staff have been exposed to PCB contamination for far too long. We ask that you move this process along in a more aggressive manner by addressing our two requests above immediately.

As this issue is very important to us, we would appreciate a response to this letter within 7 calendar days.

Sincerely,

Diane Brush  
PTA Co-President

Michelle Ciulla Lipkin  
PTA Co-President

CC:            Ross Holden, Esq., NYCSCA  
                  Vinicius Castagnola, NYCSCA  
                  Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal  
                  Council Member Gale Brewer  
                  New York State Senator Tom Duane  
                  Representative Jerrold Nadler  
                  Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate  
                  Lisa P. Jackson, EPA Administrator  
                  Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, EPA, US EPA Region 2  
                  Michael McCourt, UFT  
                  Katy Rosen, Principal PS199  
                  Theresa DiCristi, Custodial Engineer PS199