

**PTA** PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION OF  
THE JESSE ISADOR STRAUS SCHOOL

270 WEST 70TH STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10023

www.ps199pta.org

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

School Construction Authority  
Ross Holden, Esq.  
30-30 Thomson Avenue  
Long Island City, NY 11101

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

May 17, 2011

RE: PCB remediation, testing and monitoring at PS 199

Dear Chancellor Walcott, Vice Chancellor Grimm and Mr. Holden:

Thank you for your response to our letter dated April 13, 2011. Based on your response, we have several additional questions.

We are glad that you were able to perform remediation work at PS 199 during the recent holiday recess. Parents who were in our playground that week noticed the large quantity of materials that were removed from our school. One parent noticed that the caulk around one of the exterior doors was replaced, yet the caulk around that door had been changed when the new exterior doors were installed in 2008. **Have PCBs been found in the caulk that was installed in 2008?**

One of our parents also noticed that a fair amount of work was being done on the exterior of our building. It appeared that workers were encapsulating existing caulk. **Will you please explain exactly what was done to the exterior of the school, and if it was encapsulation, will you please describe which method was used and why it was being done (i.e., what were the levels of PCB in this caulk)?**

**P.S. 199**

We remain concerned about the caulk in the classroom sinks because as you know, seven caulk samples were found to be in excess of 50 ppms, which qualify as "PCB-contaminated" building materials. We understand that all of the contaminated sink caulk that you found has been removed. **Will you please confirm that caulk from every classroom sink in PS199 has been tested, not just the sinks in the classrooms that are part of the pilot study? If you have not tested the sink caulk in every classroom, please share your plans to do so and your plans to remove any contaminated caulk that is found.**

We are getting a great deal of pressure from our parent body about the PCBs that exist in our school. As such, 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: 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, Environmental Protection  
Administration, US EPA Region 2  
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