

January 20, 2011

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

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

RE: PCB remediation, testing and monitoring at PS199

Dear Deputy Chancellor Grimm and Mr. Holden:

Thank you for meeting with our school community on November 4, 2010 to discuss the PCB levels at PS199 and for sharing the most recent air test results on the December 14, 2010 conference call. While we are pleased that the Thanksgiving tests showed that levels have gone down and many classrooms are now below EPA Public Health Levels, we remain deeply concerned that a few classrooms are still above these Levels and despite all the efforts to date, the objective to bring all the areas of the school within EPA Public Health Levels has not yet been achieved.

As was indicated at the November 4th parent meeting, the airborne level of PCBs in a number of classrooms and the gym currently exceed EPA Public Health Levels. Additionally, you indicated during the December conference call that testing had shown that outdoor sources of PCBs were present at very high levels on the exterior of the building and that you would remove these sources over the December school break, weather permitting.

In light of these findings and past results, we reiterate our requests made in our October 19, 2010 letter to you. Specifically, we ask that you:

- 1) immediately remove any remaining contaminated caulk from the inside of the school building;
- 2) advise of the plan/timeline for immediate removal of contaminated outdoor building materials immediately;
- 3) advise us of the present and ongoing plans to bring and maintain levels of PCBs in the air within EPA Public Health levels in all rooms, and especially, in

those rooms currently above EPA Public Health levels;

4) advise us of the schedule through the rest of the year for regular monitoring and testing of PCB air and soil levels.

Finally, a question was raised specifically about light fixtures in the basement of our building. Have these light fixtures been replaced? Has the caulk and/or any other material in the basement been tested with the same commitment as the other floors in our school?

We urge you to expeditiously remedy the current situation at PS 199 and follow up with regular monitoring of the building. Our community simply cannot wait until next summer for further remediation efforts.

In light of the continued anxiety and health concerns our community has, we request a written response to our letter within seven days. Please respond specifically to each of our enumerated requests.

Sincerely,



Diane Brush
PTA Co-President



Michelle Ciulla Lipkin
PTA Co-President

CC:

Vinicius Castagnola, NYCSCA

Cathie Black, Chancellor, NYC Dept. of Education

Assembly Member Linda Rosenthal

Council Member Gale Brewer

New York State Senator Tom Duane

Representative Jerrold Nadler

Lisa P. Jackson, EPA Administrator

Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Administration

US EPA Region 2

Michael McCourt, UFT

Katy Rosen, Principal PS199

Theresa DiCristi, Custodial Engineer PS199