

**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, New York 10007

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

April 13, 2011

RE: PCB remediation, testing and monitoring at PS199

Dear Chancellor Walcott and Mr. Holden:

We were disturbed recently to learn that certain test results regarding tests done at P.S. 199 were not shared with us last summer or this past fall;<sup>1</sup> it is unclear to us how this could have happened in light of our extensive communications and interaction. **We request immediate confirmation that all sink caulking in our school - not just caulking tested and reported within the pilot study - has been tested and removed if found to contain PCBs in excess of 50 ppms. If any untested sink caulking remains, we request it be immediately tested and any caulk in excess of 50 ppms be removed.**

As the end of the school year approaches, we would like to understand SCA's plans for the remainder of this school year, its summer activities (both testing and remediation) and its current thinking on testing in the fall when the school year begins anew.<sup>2</sup>

Specifically,

- (1) Please share your schedule for further air, soil and materials testing in and around our school through the rest of 2011 and next year. We are particularly concerned that PCB air levels remain below the EPA's Public Health Levels.
- (2) We request the testing and removal as appropriate of all other contaminated (non-sink) caulk in the school.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/15/group-faults-new-york-on-pcb-disclosures/> (accessed April 5, 2011).

<sup>2</sup> We understand PCB "contaminated" building materials to be materials that contain greater than 50 ppms of PCBs and "contaminated" soil or dust to be soil or dust that contains greater than 1 ppm PCBs.

P.S. 199

(3) We request the testing and removal of contaminated material on the exterior of the school building and in the soil surrounding the building as discussed in our December 14, 2010 telephone conference with you.

(4) We request the removal of any other contaminated materials inside or on the exterior of the school building.

It is our great desire that we can complete the removal of all contaminated caulk and any other materials above EPA levels inside or outside the school building over the summer.

In light of the seriousness of our concerns, we further request that you provide us with a written 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  
Michael McCourt, UFT  
Katy Rosen, Principal PS199  
Theresa DiCristi, Custodial Engineer PS199