

FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



The Education Center

August 10, 2012

Dear Osborn Hill Community,

We are writing to update you on four topics related to Osborn Hill School: 1) our efforts to provide a safe learning environment at OHS for the opening of school; 2) the details of an informational forum scheduled for the OHS Community on August 15; 3) our contingency plans in the event we cannot occupy OHS for the beginning of the school year; and 4) a new fact sheet specific to Osborn Hill School developed by the CT Department of Public Health.

First, contractors are implementing the next steps developed in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) at the August 1st meeting at the school. This includes some painting of interior surfaces and specialized cleaning of some of the duct systems and interior spaces. Once this work is concluded, samples will be retaken in the school, and we will know at that time if there is more work to do at the site or whether we are within the EPA guidelines. In our discussions with the consultants, EPA and DEEP, there is consensus that, due to the scope of work required in the gymnasium, that area should be addressed separately from the other areas of the school; therefore, the gym will not be used at the start of the school year. That area will be made inaccessible and alternative accommodations will be made for gym classes until those issues are resolved. A separate plan will be developed to address the gym, but for now all efforts are focused on the remaining portions of the school. While we remain hopeful that school will start as planned, in the end, students and staff will reoccupy the school only when the EPA and DEEP are in agreement with our consultants that the necessary steps have been taken to provide a safe learning environment.

Second, two informational forums will be held for OHS parents on Wednesday, August 15. One session will be held at 4:30 p.m. and another at 7:00 p.m. These will be held in the gym at Roger Ludlowe Middle School. Representatives from the EPA, DEEP, Department of Public Health (both state and local), our testing consultant (AMC) and the district/school administration will make brief presentations followed by break-out sessions where individuals can ask specific questions of each presenter. The sessions will be identical so it is not necessary to attend both.

Third, in the event that the school is not immediately ready for occupancy, we are preparing contingency plans. As Osborn Hill is our largest school, it is not practical to relocate the students across our other ten elementary schools.

One scenario would be if the school is not ready for students on Thursday, August 30, but we are certain that the school will be ready for occupancy by Tuesday, September 4, we would delay the

start of school for Osborn Hill students until that time. If we believe the school will not be ready by September 4, our other contingency plan is to relocate students in grades K through 3 to the former Holy Family School on Stratfield Road in Fairfield and students in grades 4 and 5 to St. Emery's School on Biro Street in Fairfield. Holy Family is a former elementary school and St. Emery's School houses our Alternative High School program which will temporarily be relocated to accommodate grades 4 and 5.

The logistics involved in such a move would be considerable and will be shared with you as they are available. We also know that the sooner you and your children know about such a change, the better it will be for all. To make all the necessary changes in transportation, alter staff schedules and so forth, we will need to make a decision by Friday, August 24.

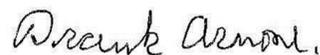
Fourth, the CT Department of Public Health has developed a "Question and Answer Fact Sheet" specifically regarding Osborn Hill School which is posted on our website; and if you are receiving this electronically, can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

We continue to dedicate our efforts to ensure that OHS meets all of the federal and state guidelines for occupancy. We will continue to post new test results on our website as we receive them. Our central office team is working diligently with our consultants and contractors to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for OHS students this year. Our next update will be on Friday, August 17.

Sincerely,



David G. Title, Superintendent of Schools



Frank Arnone, Principal