



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2019

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Vicksburg Community Schools Continues Addressing Health Concerns at Sunset Lake Elementary School

District Consulted Environmental Experts Who Are Advising School Officials Regarding Building Conditions, Informing Staff/Community

VICKSBURG, Mich. – Vicksburg Community Schools has continued to address environmental concerns at Sunset Lake Elementary School, putting the health and welfare of district educators and staff first, officials said today.

Between March 2019 and June 2019, Vicksburg Community Schools has issued four separate public statements communicating to the public that the results of air-quality testing did not identify any obvious environmental hazards. “We continue our commitment to addressing these concerns transparently to assure that all stakeholders have the most current, objective information,” said Steve Goss, Vicksburg Assistant Superintendent.

“This summer – to proactively address health concerns from staff, despite environmental experts assuring the district that building air-quality levels met or exceeded state and federal guidelines – we are removing the carpet in classrooms throughout the building and replacing classroom floors with tile,” Goss said. “The health and safety of our staff and students will always come first.”

The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a division of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), is implementing a protocol for addressing these lingering concerns. “We welcome NIOSH’s examination, and are working openly and collaboratively to assure they have all information necessary to perform a prompt and thorough analysis,” stated VCS Superintendent Keevin O’Neill. “To ensure the integrity of the NIOSH process, we are keeping the organization abreast of all developments and remedial measures that we have taken.”

All historical and current air-quality tests for Vicksburg Community Schools have continued to come back negative for harmful levels of toxicity. VCS has never had an internal air-quality test indicate unsafe conditions at the building.

“We have not found any link between the building and any serious health condition,” O’Neill said. “We are committed. If there is a connection between any harmful environmental condition and any building, we want to know, and we will correct it.”

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