

Portland Public Schools
Update on
Water Safety and Water Testing for Lead

REPORT TO THE BOARD JUNE 14, 2016

Update on plan for Water
Safety and Water Testing for
Lead that was presented to the
Board on May 31, 2016

Actions Taken: Student and Staff Safety

PROVIDE SAFE WATER:

Closed water fountains district-wide.

Provided safe water (bottled water) to all students and staff for the remainder of the school year (beginning 5/31).

- *Recycling water bottles with Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative or individual school PTA's.*

Prepared food without water or with bottled water for remainder of school year.

Have contracted for water dispensers for summer programs rather than bottled water.

Actions Taken: Student and Staff Safety

ADDRESS IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:

Partner with Multnomah County to offer on site blood lead level screening clinics at impacted schools (Rose City Park 6/6, Creston 6/7).

- 519 people screened between both schools; 2 were referred for next level of blood test
- Further screenings to be determined based on water test results

Actions Taken: Communication

Held community meetings at impacted schools
(5/31 Creston, 6/1 RCP)

Established website to post data, updates,
answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Providing weekly updates to families and staff

Media updates and availability

Actions Taken: Personnel and Protocols

Board:

Contracted with Stoll Berne to conduct investigation to

- Review current systems, procedures and protocols regarding water testing
- Evaluate management of information internally relating to lead contamination
- Identify system operational and personnel breakdowns relating to this issue

Investigation is underway.

Superintendent:

Placed Chief Operating Officer and Senior Manager of Health and Safety on paid administrative leave pending outcome of investigation.

Actions Taken: Personnel and Protocols

Yousef Awwad named Acting Chief Operating Officer

Acting COO/CFO prepared Emergency Declaration to allow for expedited contracting and procurement, pursuant to PPS Public Contracting Rule PPS-46-0110 (28)

- Provide list of contracts entered into under the Declaration of Emergency provided (6/14).

Actions Taken: Water Testing

Accelerated timeline on contract with TRC Solutions to complete water testing in all PPS buildings with results in July.

School-based results will be posted on the website, and communicated directly with families, staff and community.

Actions Planned:

Currently working on scope of contract with environmental engineering firm for assessment, mitigation and infrastructure improvement plan, policy, protocols, information management system regarding water management.

Safe drinking water and safe water for food preparation in place by start of school, 2016.

Scope and prioritize longer term needs and investments in water safety infrastructure.

Actions Planned:

Contract with a Project Manager to provide interim leadership for Health and Safety Department.

Scope including, but not limited to:

Creating the necessary staffing plan, policies, protocols, and information management systems regarding all areas of environmental health and safety.

Actions Taken and Planned: Radon

State is requiring that all schools be tested by 2021

PPS tested 26 buildings in March and April, 2016;

- Buildings selected based on elevated levels of radon during testing in 2001

121 rooms exceeded the EPA's initial action level

- EPA recommendation: re-test during the heating season

9 rooms in 6 schools showed levels in excess of the EPA's action level

- Ran HVAC system 24/7 and opened windows through end of school year; awaiting second round of monitoring that occurred this week.
- Consulting with the Oregon Health Authority on next steps