



PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION
PALMYRA, N.J. 08065

Brian J. McBride, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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William R. Blatchley
*Business Administrator/
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May 22, 2019

Dear Palmyra Community,

I would like to share with you an update pertaining to the Charles Street School (CSS) gymnasium floor. As indicated in my May 1, 2019 letter, the District closed the gymnasium in an abundance of caution upon receiving bulk test results indicating the presence of mercury in the rubberized floor. Since closing the CSS gymnasium the District secured Remington and Vernick Engineers to provide assistance with specialized testing of the gymnasium floor and air quality in the gymnasium and surrounding areas.

The NIOSH 6009 air quality test was used to assess mercury vapor levels within the gymnasium and surrounding areas. The results from samples taken from seven different locations within the gymnasium and surrounding areas indicate mercury vapor was not detected at the reporting limits within the area.

Results from the advanced testing of the floor indicate the presence of mercury at 0.233 PPM (parts per million). The presence of mercury exceeding 0.2 PPM (parts per million) will require specific handling, if disposing of the floor.

Based on the results of these tests the CSS gymnasium will open for student and staff use beginning on Thursday, May 23, 2019. The District will maintain recommended protocols for continued use of the gymnasium such as temperature control, ventilation, and routine air quality testing. The District's Safety and Security Team will remain active in the monitoring of these protocols. All test results, recommendations, and community notices will be maintained on the district's website.

The Palmyra Board of Education remains committed to the safety and security of our students and staff, and will continue to monitor progress while sharing information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent of Schools