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Date: September 27, 2019 at 11:37:51 AM EDT

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Subject: River Ridge Mobiles Health Concerns

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Dr. Rodriguez & Board Members:

I am writing with great concern for the health of the many students that are located in the

large mobile classroom unit at River Ridge Academy. Last year and during the summer others expressed their concern to the district regarding the awful smell in those classrooms. It was hoped, rather expected, that the problem would be remedied. Children were getting headaches, congestion and sore throats in that building. Children's backpacks were permeated with the smell as well as the contents of their bags, papers and clothing. The fact that our students were legally required to sit in these classrooms all day long exacerbated the concerns.

Mr. Summers told another parent late summer that the problem was corrected, but there was no air quality report to confirm the results. That is, in itself, beyond inexcusable. Why would you put children and teachers back in those rooms before scientifically confirming that the air quality is safe? Who deemed that the air was safe for these children and teachers? Where is the documentation? Since the health of so many children and teachers are at risk, I took it upon myself to purchase my own air quality monitor and test the air last night during open house. I am revolted by the results and shocked by what appears to be a cavalier attitude toward the health of our children.

The monitor I purchased does not read levels of formaldehyde (HCHO) in excess of 1.999. As you can see in the attached image, the levels reached the max (1.999) which is

the monitor's top reading. We have no idea how much higher the HCHO reading would have registered if the unit had the ability to read the correct number. We do, however, know that clearly it is at least 200 times above the acceptable limit.

The monitor also does not read TVOC (Total Volatile Organic Compounds) above 9.999. Again, the monitor maxed out leaving us unaware how much above that number the air really contains. It is clear in my research that once these substances are at a level to cause a noticeable smell you are well beyond the safe and acceptable limits for exposure.

According to all reputable resources, including OSHA, the maximum acceptable level for formaldehyde exposure is 0.010. As stated the levels in this classroom are over 200 times greater than acceptable levels. I fear what the actual levels are using a monitor that can read beyond the maximum numbers of my unit, but one thing is certain, having children being exposed to this 8 hours a day for 180 days is making our children ill AND putting the district at a huge liability.

By sending this email I have proof the district and board has been made aware of the problem. Choosing to continue to put the health of the children and teachers at risk would be nothing short of gross negligence on your

part. There are many air purifiers on the market that do not produce ozone and are meant for removing formaldehyde and VOCs. They are not inexpensive units. They will cost near \$1000 dollars per classroom, but we are discussing over 150 children's lives that are potentially affected. The dollar amount should have no bearing. These children deserve to go to school without having to risk their long term health to do so. I feel certain as a district that you would not want this environmental debacle to happen on your watch especially knowing the extreme liability the district would have by being aware of this problem and then choosing to ignore it. We have all seen the cancer clusters that can develop years after a group is exposed to dangerous substances. WHO signed off on the safety of these classrooms? We need full disclosure as but more importantly an expedient correction of a toxic situation. Airborne substances that are so strong they are actually permeating children's clothing? This is beyond unacceptable.

I realize and accept that this problem likely can't be totally eliminated since clearly you tried to remediate the smell this summer and that did not work. It can, however, be improved through the immediate purchase and use of air purifying units being added to each of the classrooms including the hallway since teachers often have their doors open. The selection of these purifiers should be made by a knowledgeable person in this area and professionals that can install

them correctly and maintain them with clean filters when necessary.

I am including a list of companies that build units specifically for these airborne contaminants. Again, they are not cheap, but the lives of our children are worth far more.

I am hoping this can be remedied by providing the district and board this information so that immediate action can be taken. If action is not taken promptly to ensure the health of these students I will be forced to reach out to local media to help inform the other parents about what their children are being exposed to on a daily basis as well as letting the general public know the liability the district has placed on itself by not addressing this clear and obvious problem. It doesn't take more than a second of walking into those portable classrooms to know there is a problem, clearly one that has been being ignored at the sake of our children's health and well-being. I truly hope to see swift and immediate action to remedy this problem and provide these children an environment that is not dangerous to their health.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Parent

Air Purifiers:

Grainger

Austin Air Healthmate

AirPura

AirDoctor

Enviroklenz

