Amherst Central School District

Anthony J. Panella
Superintendent

Ryan Schoenfeld, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

October 26, 2016

Dear Staff and Parents of Smallwood Drive Elementary School Building,

As a district, we are committed to the safety and education of all our students and we also want to clearly communicate with parents about our learning environment.

The Amherst Central School District is in compliance with regulations issued last month by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) requiring all school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to test potable water fixtures used for drinking or cooking purposes for lead contamination, to remediate contamination where found, and to notify parents of children and the public of test results. Levels of lead at any water outlet above 15 parts per billion (ppb) require action to remediate this issue and trigger notification requirements.

As required, the Amherst Central School District tested all water sources in every school building for lead. Consistent with regulatory requirements, first draw water samples were taken after letting the water remain unmoving in the pipes over a period of 8 to 18 hours. I am writing to share the initial results we received for testing at the Smallwood Drive Elementary building.

In total, 133 samples were collected at Smallwood Drive Elementary and 3 samples exceeded the threshold of 15ppb as follows:

- Girls restroom hand sink across from room 168 - unused
- Wellness Center Storeroom sink, Room 138 – unused
- Outside Hose Bib near door 15 - unused

In response to the receipt of these test results, the water outlets that exceeded the testing level have immediately been taken out of service. The next step is to develop a remediation plan that will be approved and guided by the experts in the field of water remediation.

It is important to note that none of the sources will be put back into service and available for drinking or cooking until the sources are fully mitigated, re-tested and meet NYSDOH Standards.

A copy of our water testing results will be available on the District website at www.amherstschools.org under the News headline, Water Testing.

For more information about water quality and sampling for lead you may want to contact the Erie County Department of Health at 961-6800. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your building principal, School Business Administrator Melanie Conley, or me.

Sincerely,

Anthony Panella
Superintendent of Schools