
Syosset Central School District

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May 24, 2018

Dear South Grove Parents and Guardians,

We would like to update you on the status of some environmental testing the District will be conducting at South Grove Elementary, and to clarify some information regarding the history of the site and the adjacent land.

This coming Memorial Day weekend, radon testing will be conducted in the building. As mentioned in a previous communication, this testing is scheduled as part of ongoing, periodic testing that has occurred since 2002. The report will be made available to parents and staff members when complete.

Additionally, in response to recent parent requests voiced to the Superintendent at the last PTA meeting, the District has scheduled soil testing at South Grove. We understand the desire for additional testing in light of the discussion of the neighboring property. The testing will occur in early June and we will provide the results to parents and staff members when available, likely in late June.

We understand there is a misimpression that the school closed in the early 1990's during the capping of the landfill. Although the Board of Education did initially vote to do so (and this vote was reported by the New York Times), the Board subsequently rescinded the resolution and the closure never took place. As we understand, here is a summary of the actions taken by the Board during that time period:

- January 14, 1991 Resolution No. 9-9: The Board of Education adopted a resolution intending to close the building during the capping of the Syosset landfill commencing in the beginning of the 1992-1993 school year.
- September 16, 1991 Resolution No. 6-23: Resolution 9-9 was rescinded (due to a delay in the capping process).
- September 16, 1991 Resolution No. 6-24: The Board of Education adopted a resolution to temporarily close South Grove School and Annex during the capping process commencing with the beginning of the 1993-94 school year.
- September 12, 1994 Resolution No. 5-15: Resolution No. 6-24 was rescinded stating "... representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Town of Oyster Bay, Lochwood, Kessler and Bartlett, Inc., and the New York State Department of Health, have indicated, based on scientific conclusions, that the south Grove Elementary school and Annex are safe for children and staff during the capping process ...".

Lastly, we would like to be clear that the District does not review the Town of Oyster Bay's maintenance of the landfill, and has no role in monitoring the site. We recently became aware that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) completed a 5-year review of the site last February. The EPA's report from that review can be found here. [<https://cumulis.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/csitinfo.cfm?id=0201187>]

The health and safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance to the District and we are committed to maintaining a safe environment. We look forward to providing results from both the soil and the radon testing as soon as they are available.

Sincerely,
The Syosset Central School District