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**SUPERINTENDENT OF
SCHOOLS**

Dr. Joseph Giani

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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August 11, 2017

Dear South Country School Community:

I am writing at this time to provide an update to you regarding the Frank P. Long Intermediate School. You may be aware that some residents and faculty members have expressed concerns regarding the school and the Brookhaven Landfill. As a result, the Board of Education authorized further, extensive testing to be conducted at the school, and directed administration to prepare options in the event the Board chose to close the school and relocate our 4th and 5th grade students. This extensive testing at the Frank P. Long included:

- ◆ Asbestos
- ◆ Mold
- ◆ Total Particulate
- ◆ Heavy Metals
- ◆ Hydrogen Sulfide
- ◆ Radon
- ◆ Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- ◆ Groundwater Sampling and Analysis

In addition, at their meeting of July 26th, the Board of Education directed me to reach out to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for their position related to the landfill being the source of benzene in the community, and guidance on one-hour air quality data collected by our consultant. Yesterday I received correspondence from the DEC clarifying these items. To briefly summarize, the DEC determined the predominant source of benzene in the community to be motor vehicles. They wrote "The widespread claim that the Department determined the Landfill to be the predominant source of benzene found in the neighborhood is incorrect." In their letter, the DEC also acknowledged that the SGC guideline is more appropriate to use than AGC guideline.

Included with the DEC correspondence was a letter to Dr. James Tomarken, Suffolk County Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner from Dr. Elizabeth Lewis-Michl, NYS DOH Division of Environment Health Assessment. The NYS DOH letter was in response to Dr. Tomarken's letter requesting an evaluation of our previous testing data, and the district's request for a review of the additional testing results. To briefly

summarize, the DOH commented “in general, the results of the indoor samples were unremarkable” and typical of what is found in indoor air. The DOH also stated that “odors or adverse health effects would not be expected from exposure to the level of VOCs measured at the time of sampling.” In addition, the DOH commented that the comparison used by the district consultant is consistent with their approach when evaluating such data.

These letters and associated documents are available for your review in their entirety on our website at www.southcountry.org/board_of_education/frank_p._long_options_and_testing.

I want you to know that ensuring the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff continues to be our number one priority. On Wednesday, August 16th, the Board will be presented with the final results from the added more extensive testing at a Special Meeting of the Board. This meeting will be held at Bellport High School, with the public portion of the meeting beginning at approximately 7:30 pm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Giani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Joseph Giani, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools