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MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OUT OF AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION, WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SEEKS TO TEMPORARILY RELOCATE KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

RICHMOND— In response to preliminary data from vapor testing results and out of an abundance of caution, West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) Superintendent Cheryl Cotton issued a message notifying the Kennedy High School community that all staff and families are not permitted to enter the Kennedy High campus until further notice.

Any media inquiries about the vapor testing results should be directed to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) at mediarelations@dtsc.ca.gov.

Any media inquiries regarding school operations should be directed to communications@wccusd.net. Questions from staff and families should be directed to Kennedy High School principal David Luongo at dluongo@wccusd.net.

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Dear Kennedy High School Staff and Community,

On Friday, WCCUSD Executive Cabinet received information about preliminary test results on the Kennedy high school campus that indicate levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) underneath the site.

While the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has told WCCUSD that they believe that, based on the preliminary results available, there is no immediate risk to health and safety, further testing is needed in order to verify that it is safe for students and staff to be on campus. At this time, out of an abundance of caution, WCCUSD is making the immediate determination that

all staff and students are not allowed to enter the Kennedy High School campus until additional testing is completed.

The District has been in communication with DTSC throughout the weekend and continues to work with DTSC, the California Department of Education, and the City of Richmond. We are also communicating with our staff at Kennedy, as well as our labor and community partners. It is vital that Kennedy has a safe, healthy, and stable start to a school year, and as we are planning for further testing and any necessary mitigation, we are also determining our contingency plans in partnership with the City, County, and State for how and where our Kennedy Eagles will begin their school year.

We recognize the urgency of this situation and that this is a concerning update as the start of the school year is rapidly approaching. We want to assure our community and staff that we will continue operating swiftly, transparently, and with the utmost care for the health and safety of all of our students and staff. We will continue to update you as we receive further information.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Cotton
Superintendent

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