

GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEWS

HAMILTON AVENUE SCHOOL CLOSED MONDAY, MARCH 3rd

(For immediate release: Greenwich, CT - Saturday, March 1, 2008) Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Betty J. Sternberg has announced that Hamilton Avenue School (HAS) at the modulars will be closed as of Monday, March 3, 2008 for one week. In the course of investigating and remediating a roof leak at HAS last night, the environmental consultant identified additional areas of concern. Upon further investigation the consultants discovered mold within the walls and ceiling of a portion of the building. Charles Schwartz, President of Environmental Assessments & Solutions, Inc. the District's environmental consultant, said, "the problems identified are not related to maintenance issues and there are no indications of impaired air quality."

Director of the Division of Environmental Services for the Town of Greenwich Department of Health, Mr. Michael S. Long, said, "Based on what the Board of Education's consultant (Charles Schwartz) has found so far, there is a moisture problem which is creating a mold problem within the walls and ceiling of portions of the school. Further investigation remains to be done to determine the extent of the moisture problem. So far the limited testing for mold indicates no problems with ambient air within the school, however more testing needs to be done and is scheduled to be done in the next day or so. These tests and investigations will provide a better picture of the situation and assist in determining what steps to take next."

School will be closed for Hamilton Avenue School students for the week while the District identifies and executes a relocation plan.

Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMT) scheduled for the next two weeks will be postponed for Hamilton Avenue School students only.

A Board of Education meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2008 at 7:00pm – location TBD. The Board will discuss and communicate the status of the facility and a relocation plan for Hamilton Avenue School students and staff for the remainder of the school year. There will be an opportunity for public comment and questions.

This is a preliminary announcement. The Superintendent is in consultation with District and school administrators, Board of Education members, the First Selectman, Chairman of the BET, Town Department of Health officials, and environmental consultants as we continue to investigate the extent of the facility issues at HAS and a plan for relocation.

Updates will be posted to a dedicated page on the District site daily and/or as they become available. Go to www.greenwichschools.org and follow the link on the home page.

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