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May 30, 2013

Dennis Walcott
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chancellor Walcott:

I write again on behalf of students, teachers and parents on the Upper West Side who are concerned about the replacement of light fixtures containing PCB's in Department of Education (DOE) schools in our neighborhood. At a recent CEC3 meeting, a School Construction Authority (SCA) representative said that the light ballasts at P.S. 191, 210 West 61 Street, New York, NY 10023 and P.S. 84, 32 West 92 Street, New York, NY 10024 would be replaced this summer. Please confirm with my office which schools in Council District 6 are scheduled for light fixture replacement during the upcoming 2013 summer school break.


Additionally, I would like to follow-up on the replacement of light ballasts at P.S. 334 The Anderson School, The Computer School and PS 452, all co-located at the O'Shea Complex, 100 West 77 Street, New York, NY 10024. I wrote a letter regarding the status of PCB-containing light ballasts at these schools in June 2012 and would like to know if there are any updates.

Finally, as you know, a leak was found at P.S. 87 in December 2012; what is the timeline for remediation at that school?

The settlement announced on May 21, 2013 requiring the City to remove all PCB light fixtures by December 31, 2016 is a great relief to parents and school staff but the effort will also require strong coordination and communication. It's my understanding that while the remediation is being conducted, these schools sites are closed to the operation of summer camps, arts, athletic and educational programs – how is the DOE communicating with these highly valued and utilized programs that may need alternative siting during remediation?

Please report your findings to my office. Given the presence of young children in these schools, in addition to teachers, administrators and parents, it is of the utmost importance that these light fixtures be replaced as soon as possible. If you have questions, contact Shula Warren of my office at 212-788-6975.

Sincerely,


Gale A. Brewer