



CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH

Jeannine Durkin
Acting Superintendent, Lowell Public Schools
155 Merrimack St, 4th floor
Lowell, MA 01852

Dear Madam Superintendent;

At the Board of Health Meeting held on October 3, 2018, the Board discussed the ongoing repairs of various school buildings in the City, and the increasing number of schools being cited for critical violations of the State Sanitary Code.

The Board is concerned about several reports from Senior Sanitary Code Inspector Shawn Machado regarding recent failed sanitary code inspections at several of the schools including rodent droppings, damaged drywall and ceiling tiles, trip hazards in a walk-in refrigerator, and water pouring in through various school roofs during the recent rains. These are considered "critical violations", in that, if they occurred in a City restaurant or food establishment they would be cause for closure due to Health Code violations until the necessary repairs or corrections were made.

The Board did extend an invitation to Mr. Rick Underwood, Director of Facilities for the School Department, to attend the October 3rd meeting for the purpose of updating the Board and received no response. It is also the understanding of the Board that the weekly meetings with the Public Works Department, Building Commissioner, Senior Sanitary Code Inspector, and the School Department regarding school repairs have slowed or ceased. These meetings were beneficial to prioritize repairs, and by doing so, the number of schools failing their bi-annual Sanitary Code inspections dropped significantly.

As a result of these violations, the Board Members made and approved a motion to respectfully request that you (or your representative) as well as Mr. Underwood, attend the Board of Health Meeting scheduled for 6:00 PM on November 7, 2018 in the Mayor's Reception Room, City Hall, for the purpose of updating the Board regarding the on-going repairs in the schools. Of special concern are the leaking roof and tunnel at the High School, steps being taken with the new extermination company to combat the rodent infestation being reported at several schools as well as other critical violations noted in the current Sanitary Code inspections and Building Code violations noted in the report by former Building Commissioner Shaun Shanahan.

The Board has also requested that, if possible, a representative from City Manager Eileen Donoghue's office, and DPW Commissioner Jim Donison also attend the November 7, 2018 Board meeting so all the parties are able to discuss the ongoing problems and possibly move forward with addressing the most serious problems as the health and welfare of our school children are of the utmost importance.

Sincerely,

Jo-Ann Keegan
Chairwoman, Lowell Board of Health

Cc: Rick Underwood, Director of Facilities, LPS
Eileen Donoghue, City Manager

10.4.18/kaa/BOH