Bill as Introduced

HB 329-FN-LOCAL – AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

2jan02...2045h

2001 SESSION

01-0620
04/09

HOUSE BILL ***329-FN-LOCAL***

AN ACT establishing a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

SPONSORS: Rep. Estabrook, Straf 8

COMMITTEE: Education

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand One

AN ACT establishing a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

2 Membership and Compensation.

I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

(a) Four members of the house of representatives, two of whom shall be from the education committee and two of whom shall be from the health, human services and elderly affairs committee, appointed by the speaker of the house.

(b) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be from the education committee and one of whom shall be from the public institutions, health and human services committee, appointed by the president of the senate.

(c) The director of the division of public health services, or designee.

(d) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.

(e) The state fire marshall, or designee.

(f) A representative of the New Hampshire School Boards Association, appointed by the president of the New Hampshire School Boards Association.

(g) Two members of the public, appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council.

II. Committee members shall serve without compensation except that legislative members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the committee.

3 Duties. The duties of the committee shall be to:

I. Determine the scope of the problems of poor indoor air quality and fire risks and hazards in public school buildings.

II. Examine the issues of poor indoor air quality and fire risks and hazards and report any conclusions relevant but not limited to:

(a) Previous studies and reports.

(b) The current role of the state and comparison of existing state requirements for public schools with those for state buildings and places of public assembly.

(c) Resources available to address the problems.

(d) Similar policies in other states.

(e) Options for expanding the state's role including enforcement, documentation, establishment of standards or guidelines, incentives for compliance, and regulatory authority.

III. Make recommendations, which may include legislation, on policy strategies for prevention and solutions to correct such problems.

4 Chairperson; Meetings. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section.

5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate president, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2002.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

LBAO
01-0620
Revised 3/21/01

HB 329 FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT relative to school safety.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Education indicates this bill will increase state general fund expenditures by $349,000 in FY 2002 and each year thereafter. The Departments of Safety and Administrative Services indicate they cannot determine the impact of this bill on state revenue or expenditures. None of the Departments indicated a fiscal impact to state, county and local revenue or county and local expenditures.

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Education indicates the state will incur expenditures in the amount of $200,000 per year to perform annual fire inspections for all public schools and $149,000 per year to ensure all public school buildings meet the clean air standards. The Department based its estimates on conversations with the Department of Health and Human Services and the State Fire Marshall's Office. The costs include salary, benefits, administration and mileage.

The Departments of Safety and Administrative Services indicate they cannot estimate the fiscal impact of this bill.

None of the agencies indicated a cost to the local school districts for the cost of the inspections.

LBAO
01-0620
Amended 1/10/02

HB 329 FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT establishing a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill, as amended by the House, **House Amendment #2001-2045h** will have no fiscal impact on state, county and local revenue or expenditures.

METHODOLOGY:

The Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill establishes a study committee, and therefor will have no fiscal impact.

Committee Minutes

Date: April 4, 2002
Time: 1:00 P.M.
Room: Room 105-A, SH

The Senate Committee on Education held a hearing on the following:

House Bill 329-FN-L (New Title) establishing a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

Members of Committee present: Sen. Jane E. O'Hearn, Chairman
Sen. George F. Disnard
Sen. Carl R. Johnson

The Chair, Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, opened the hearing on **House Bill 329-FN-L** by calling on **Representative Warren C. Henderson.**

Representative Warren C. Henderson, Dist 20: Thank you, Madam Chairman. For the record, my name is Warren Henderson, representing Rockingham, District 20. I'm also from the House Education Committee. I'm here in **support** of **House Bill 329**. As is so often the case, Representative Estabrook and I are in total agreement about the need to pass this legislation.

Its intent, really, is straightforward, clear, and, in my judgment, entirely appropriate. The bill, as you can tell by its low number, was introduced in the first year of the biennium and would have begun a series of actions – this is in its original form – to reassess the relationship between the State Fire Marshall's Office, other state authorities and local school districts, as it relates to fire safety and air quality.

There was some concern about the implications of redressing that relationship; and, thus; wisely, the bill was changed into a study committee. But the study committee that is set up here...and I know that it is not in every case that a study committee is seen as a constructive alternative.... It's clear to me from the way that the bill is written and the way that the study committee is formed and empowered, that this is designed to be a practical way to provide a comprehensive base of information about what

exactly...about what problems do or do not exist in our schools as it relates to air quality and fire safety.

The bill, in my judgment, it (sic) brings the right mix of people together in order that all affected parties are properly represented. The timeframes are realistic. The issues that it seeks to address, those being related to fire safety and air quality, obviously are those that have fundamental health and safety implications for the schools and everyone who is in the schools, both children and employees. And the bill allows for the study committee to make appropriate findings and recommendations.

And my hope is that they would be welcomed, when the time came, by the parties who would be in a position to do something about those recommendations. I think it's pretty straightforward. I hope that you would see this in the same way.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Thank you. Questions from the committee?

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: Usual question, why **4 reps** and **2 senators**?

Representative Warren C. Henderson, Dist 20: Because it takes 4 reps to do the job of 2 senators.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Senator Johnson.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Down the road do you see any **28-A** issues here?

Representative Warren C. Henderson, Dist 20: Well, I think that's obviously a fundamental question. And that would be one of the prisms through which the findings would be looked at. But I'll tell you, in my judgement, the first constructive thing that will happen is the findings themselves. My hope is that those who would benefit from the findings of this committee would not just be at the state level. It seems entirely possible to me that there are schools that would be found to have deficiencies or problem areas who might not be aware of it. And, therefore, my hope is that those schools who were found to be deficient would not take it as criticism but as a constructive revelation that they might act on themselves.

We're always mindful of the fact that we have to be careful not to violate the provisions of **Section 28-A**. And that impediment will always exist. But, you know, all this really does is give us more and better information. And it

leaves the option to future legislators and to affected schools as to how to address the findings.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Maybe you don't find problems; but the schools should have attended to them anyway. And they may not be **28-A** issues but rather issues they should have attended to before.

Representative Warren C. Henderson, Dist 20: That's right. And I have neither the intention nor the information to prejudge the findings of the committee.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Is there a follow-up...is this a follow-up on what the state board did on the study of school buildings? Did they get into that in their report?

Representative Warren C. Henderson, Dist 20: That, I think, was...something was going to happen with the original form of this bill (sic). If Iris was here, she would know for sure what happened. I can't really...I don't. My sense is that if that bill had led to a study, it wouldn't be back before us, I don't think. So I think that whatever happened there allowed this bill to still be alive and still be before us now. That's an imprecise answer: and it's the best I've got. Perhaps other speakers will know more about that. I don't.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: OK. Any further questions of Representative Henderson? Thank you. In **support**, but not wishing to speak, is **Representative Sova**. And **Representative Alger**, in **support**, not wishing to speak. And Representative Cox....

Representative Russell N. Cox, Dist 24: I'd like to speak, if you don't mind.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: You would like to speak?

Representative Russell N. Cox, Dist 24: I changed my mind.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: OK. You are more than welcome to speak, Representative Cox. I'm finding it unusual that members from the Education Committee do not want to speak.

Representative Russell N. Cox, Dist 24: They never answer their question (indiscernible).

For the record, my name is Russell Cox, representing Rockingham/24, Rye and New Castle. Having been in the property management business for 20 or 30-odd years, I would like to **reinforce** the need of something like this.

Air quality control is something that's becoming increasingly important. You notice sickness in schools. Molds in ductwork have been discovered as being very damaging. Fresh air...a lot of the standards on fresh air intakes have changed over the years. And that's...if you've ever been in a theatre where the air is dead for a long period of time, you know how sleepy it makes you. I have a bad habit of going to sleep when the air gets that way.

I think just having the study committee, and doing some research, and drawing attention to the issues will...could be very effective in getting the schools to pay attention to it themselves from a standpoint that.... And, Senator Disnard, you pointed out that a lot of this is probably maintenance that they just haven't done. And I suspect that's the case, particularly in the fire safety of the things like exits being closed and so forth. One of the big important things about this bill is just drawing attention to these two things and making people do a heads-up on it. And there's testimony.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Further questions? Thank you, very much, Representative Cox. **Karen Kelly** who is in **support**, not wishing to speak. **Anne Kubina**, who is in **support**, not wishing to speak. And **Matthew Cahillane** from the **Department of Health and Human Services**, wishing to speak and in **support**. Please come forward.

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: (Please refer to from the NH Department of Health and Human Services regarding House Bill 329-FN-LOCAL, *"Attachment #1,"* dated April 4, 2002.)

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Any questions? Senator Johnson.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: You mentioned in your testimony something to the effect that you'd be concerned about over-crowding in the schools. Are you saying down the road that you could dictate what the class size would be?

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: Well this is really for a study committee for them to say what that would be. I think when you look at ventilation, you can say, "Well, you can have too little ventilation or too few people in the school." And if you've got an old ventilation system and the number of people are increasing in the school, it'll be hard for that ventilation system to keep up with it. So, looking at the number of the people in school is as important

as looking as the size of the actual ventilation system and whether it's providing enough fresh air.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Follow-up on that. I know in Rules we have a size of a classroom, how big a school has to be. Is that done with any environmental health issues involved?

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: I don't know if it is.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Are you aware of the program...what the state board was doing, I think it was, two years ago?

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: Right.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Did they look into the air quality of the room of the school buildings as well as the fire safety issues?

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: What they did was an opinion survey, basically, or a survey of school officials. So they would send out a survey they could fill out. And they would ask them questions like, "Do you feel like fresh air is a concern?" Or...what did they say...is it a detriment to your school or is it a benefit, something of that sort. So they kind of have 2 choices in what they can say. And about **40%** said they thought fresh air in schools or school ventilation was a problem for their school. I can't remember, I think it was around **40%** who said they thought it was one of their assets or they were fine in that category.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: OK. On the list of members of the committee there to serve. Does it call for someone like you from the Department of Health and Human Services like the Director of Division of Public Health, or designee?

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: Right. She would appoint somebody. It could likely be me.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: OK. Thank you. Any further questions? Thank you. That is the last person that has signed. Is there anyone that would like to speak?

Ms. Kim Schellera: My name is Kim Schellera. I live in Raymond, New Hampshire; and I'm very concerned about the schools. I support the bill to have annual air quality exams as long as there is something that can be done to enforce the issue upon the school systems to clean the air. I do not feel it should be up to the voters to decide whether the children and school

personnel breathe clean air. There should be minimum standards that the schools must comply with that should be followed up after these tests are run to check for compliance. The Lamprey River Elementary School has poor air quality as seen in the letter to Mr. St. Cyr, Superintendent, dated **February 5, 2001**, which I have copies of. **(The St. Cyr Letter was not submitted to the Committee.)**

The Iber Holmes Grove Middle School also has poor air quality, as stated in the letter dated **February 7, 2001**. **(Please refer to letter to Mr. St. Cyr, Superintendent, from Vallana W. Pratt-Decker, *"Attachment #2,"* Dated February 7, 2001**

Minor changes have been made. And I am getting documentation from Toni Richey who is in charge of the school maintenance, which I can send as soon as I receive it. I spoke to him earlier before I left. Mr. Richey does not have the manpower or the budget to properly maintain these schools. A follow-up has not been done by the state: and needs to be done.

My son has allergies, chronic croup, asthma and chronic respiratory problems. He's been on Zyrtec since he was 10 months old. He cannot possibly go to these schools as they are without becoming very sick. And he's going to be going to first grade next year.

I have called the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to request a follow-up and retest the air in both schools. I have also called the Fire Marshall's Office to request an inspection. The roof is leaking in the Lamprey River Elementary School. And I had to walk around buckets right inside the front door, which I believe is a fire hazard and would hinder the people trying to get out of the building in an emergency.

I have called the New Hampshire Special Education Department to ask about a follow-up on their audit, dated **November 21, 2000**. I was appalled after reading the audit and what they discovered in the Raymond school system. And I have not heard back from them as of today.

The Town of Raymond voted down upon (sic) two new schools at a net cost to taxpayers of **$8.133 million** after state aid. The (indiscernible) lost by **30** votes. **Fifty-eight and four tenths** want these two new schools. There were not enough voting booths for the number of voters based on the **RSA 658:9** stating there should be one voting booth for every **125** registered voters. There are **4,393** registered voters in Raymond and there were **26** voting booths when there should have been **35**. Many people could not wait in the long lines and there are many people who want to improve the Raymond schools.

That's pretty much what I have to say.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Questions. Senator Johnson.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: I think what you've indicated.... I think it obviously would appear that there are areas in place where you can go through the process. Not to your liking, obviously, because....

Ms. Kim Schellera: Right. Nothing's happening.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: ...you haven't had anything happen. And I would certainly join your frustration on that. But I think there are things in place. I serve on the Interlakes School Board. And when we have an instance come before the board from a parent or parents relative to air quality, we immediately address the issue. And, as a school board member, I can tell you that we don't let anybody off the hook. We make sure that we're going to get the proper attention.

So, have you talked to the school board?

Ms. Kim Schellera: The school board's aware of this problem. We had a meeting last night with 2 members....

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Being aware and addressing it are two different things.

Ms. Kim Schellera: OK. There's a school board meeting tonight.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: And you'll attend that school board meeting?

Ms. Kim Schellera: Yes. I'm going to.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Good. Thank you.

Ms. Kim Schellera: OK.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Thank you, very much. Is there anyone else that would like to speak?

Ms. Christina Vogel: My name is Christina Vogel. I also come from Raymond. And I do have a little bit more information regarding what Mrs. Schellera has stated. Originally, I wrote a letter. I was going to read the

whole thing; but I'll spare you that. I did have a very difficult time trying to figure out exactly how I was going to go about this.

Indoor air quality is a personal concern of mine. I have a **7-year-old** daughter. She should be attending first grade. It is my opinion that our current elementary school is not satisfactory for her for the reason that she has documented intermittent hearing loss related to sinus infections. She is prone to getting allergy infections. And I do have a copy of an **EPA** report that was done back...actually, the follow-up was **February 5, 2001. (A copy of this report was not submitted to the committee.)**

And I would just like to explain a couple of things about the physical structure of our elementary building, why I think it's a little bit more complicated than maybe some other schools in New Hampshire.

Our (sic) general observations confirm the apparent lack of ventilation in much of the school. This was based on the small sizing of the air duct and vents, low air flows, random placement of the portable walls in relation to air vents. Portable walls were put up in our elementary school, which was originally built as open concept. The elevated carbon dioxide measurements are a problem. Several of these resectioned rooms had no ventilation at all. They don't even have windows. It was also observed that several of the heating units, air vents and the horizontal surfaces were dusty.

Earlier in the report, our head of maintenance, Mr. Richey, states he changes the air filters **6** times a year. He stated that the school had a history of roof and foundation leaks, mold problems in the carpets.

This document states during the wet, warm summer months, but it is all going throughout the year when children go out to play, they track in all kinds of moisture, dirt, dust with their shoes. The roof was reported to have been repaired approximately **10** years ago - which would have been **'91** - with a rubberized membrane.

Well, last winter we had a problem with the load of snow. We had a bunch of people go up on the roof. Shoveling snow, they damaged the membrane. Now, we have attempted fixing it; but it has not been done properly that, to this day when you walk in the front doors of the elementary school on a day of light rain or following rain, there are buckets that are, literally, catching water.

The middle school has a lot of problems. But I believe at this time, most residents acknowledge that. We are trying to address that. But they still, for some reason, do not accept the problems in this elementary school.

I could go on and read other deficiencies. But one that really concerned me as a parent, that (sic) a recommendation that I don't feel is realistic and I don't think is appropriate was a statement under a recommendation action. Encourage (sic) parents of children with asthma or allergies to similarly try to reduce or remove common allergens in their homes or childcare facilities, which may be also affecting the child's health at school.

Now, I know people like myself who has (sic) a daughter with recurrent sinus infections. She doesn't even let me know when this happens and it has affected her hearing. So now at 7 years old, she's not speaking appropriately for her age. And I'm fighting to get her speech services.

Why would I as a parent want to put my daughter in a situation that potentially could hold her back more? She went through testing. She went through the process. I'm being told she's not eligible for speech services because her I.Q. is too high. And, to me, that's not appropriate.

So what I am looking for, just like Mrs. Schellera, is that I think I **support** this bill. I wish I knew a little bit more about the specifics. I apologize. This only came to my attention a couple of days ago. But I want to make sure that the committee understands we need somebody to come into our town and encourage us. Help us comply with the standards. This has been ongoing. I have a document dated **'96** that states concerns in our elementary school. We're voting on HVAC systems that could help improve the situation.

And it's my opinion that the voters should not be allowed to make the decisions on critical action that would benefit the health and wellbeing of our children. So as you deliberate and as you think on these bills. I hope that you would consider that and keep that in mind.

Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, Dist 12: Thank you. Questions? Senator Johnson.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Does Raymond have a local health officer?

Ms. Christina Vogel: Not that I know of. No. No. We are hurting for staff. We have such a high turnover rate in staff. Because of the physical problems in our school, we had a **30%** teacher turnover rate last year; **26%** the year before. We're losing **7** out of **9** administrators between **6** principals, a superintendent almost annually. We're going to find out tonight at out school board meeting who's not coming back next year.

And when we lose our administrators, we lose our principals, vice principals and superintendents, we have a problem with curriculum. We can't have somebody come in, initiate a program and maintain it, because every **2 to 3** years somebody new is coming in: wants to investigate what the situation is and start from scratch. So all of that is adding up to our dilemma in Raymond. We're not making progress. And it's true. We had **58.4%** of the voters approve a plan for this year that....

I was on a building committee, as were 2 other friends of mine that came with me. For the entire past year we examined the situation in Raymond. I don't know if you want me to go into that at all, but we looked at the issues. And we kept in mind we wanted to come up with a plan that would not overburden the taxpayers beyond their ability to pay.

And on **March 12th**, when we voted, the bottom line price to taxpayers was **$8.6 million**. Since then there may be additional.....money that potentially could be applied to a plan that would lower the amount. Taxpayers need to raise for **2 new buildings**, an elementary school and a middle school, to **$8.1 million**. They didn't vote for it. The biggest reason they didn't vote for it was because of the property tax situation.

So I don't know, as you work here in Concord, if you could somehow even relay that to the representatives and the senators, we need that kind of help. Somehow, we need to solve this education funding crisis.

People are leaving. I have friends and neighbors. They move into a home, they're gone within **9** months because.... I don't think most of us mind paying our taxes as long as we see something for it. Our high school seniors are graduating with a functionally illiteracy rate of **54%**. And that is not acceptable.

So, this indoor air quality is something of great importance, which we were hoping the new buildings would have taken care of. But, again, without having some form of consequence for not complying, our Raymond voters continue to vote no on everything. And we need to do something. Our children can't wait. I hate to say it, but I'm considering on leaving. My children are growing. I can't wait for them.

I don't know if this is appropriate, but at any time, if anybody would like to investigate our schools, just coming and seeing what's going on or having other documents, copies, I'd be more than happy to do that for you.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: Question. You have a senator on your school board, don't you?

Ms. Christina Vogel: He is a new member on the school board, yes.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: Can you ask...have families asked to sit down with him and go over their....

Ms Christina Vogel: He was on our building committee. He was with us.

Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, Dist 12: Have you talked with the Department of Education about your rights as parents having a child with allergies that cannot go to the school?

Ms. Christina Vogel: Actually, I went through 2 rounds of that. I do need to continue pursuing it. It just bothers me that it has to be such a fight. It shouldn't have to be a fight. A reason I'm being told it's a fight is because there are so many children in our town that need services. I'm a stay-at-home mother home-schooling my daughter. She goes to school for specials. I let her go...she has to. I need to be able to spend time with my other 2 kids. I'm spending time with her.

She was tested academically. They're telling me speech is not considered a special education service. It is not hindering her ability to learn. And that greatly concerns me because she is so bright. She is so smart. At 7 years old, I sometimes don't understand her. And she has a **3-year-old** brother now who is not speaking properly for his age, maybe for the same reason, maybe not. I don't know; but I have these concerns.

So, that's where I'm at.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Continue with the Department of Education and ask for their input on your issues.

Ms Christina Vogel: Thank you.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Is there anyone else that would like to speak on **House Bill 329** or would like to speak again? Senator Johnson?

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: I have a question for the gentleman from Health and Human Services. Is Raymond your (indiscernible)?

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: Yes, it is.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: And when was the last time you visited that?

Mr. Matthew Cahillane: I believe it was in **2001** when...she has a copy.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: This is the document. We have extra copies of when they visited but...may I speak for one minute, please?

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Please come forward.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: My name is Cathy Campbell and I'm a resident of Raymond. And I've been very involved in the school system since my children started attending.

My daughter's now **12**. She's in the **6th** grade. She's in a portable classroom. My son is in the **4th** grade in what they call the **100** Wing, which was built in **1918**. It's a wooden structure. The town was finally forced last year, after several parents like myself complained that because of the third floor that they're on some of the classrooms that they have to go through other classrooms to get out, they finally forced them to put a sprinkler system.

There's no water. There's no running water. The bathrooms are in another part of the building. It's a fire hazard as to one reason (sic). But the air quality...my son also has asthma. He was in the elementary building, which the exterior walls were never properly sealed. The roof leaks...mold and mildew problems beyond belief in both buildings.

I have been a member of the building committee that we were on since **last April**. A group of us have also started something called **Project Schools**. We've been trying to promote...we try to get this bond issue passed. We tried to get as much information to the votes that we could. Unfortunately, there was some politics played and **Save Our Buildings** came about and other things; and the bottom line is our children are losing again.

Like I said, my son has asthma. He's on the third floor in a room that was divided into **2** classrooms now crammed with **20** kids and **1** window. These facilities are unacceptable. We need the state to come in and say, "You can't. You can't run your school." The state has to do something and say, "You cannot run your school like this. We will have to close you down."

We will have to do something because all we can do is go to the DHHS. We can go to the Department of Human Services and they can recommend; but they have no power to do anything. Somebody has to do something at the state level. State funding has to be addressed.

But we just feel as parents we're so frustrated. And I know being on the building committee for a year has taken a lot of time away from my children.

And I spent many, many nights working on this building committee. And it was so devastating on **March 12th** to lose that vote by **30** votes.

We have a petition going before the school board tonight with **500** signatures of people who want to go for a special emergency election...because we have to do something. Our children are suffering for it.

And I invite you to come down and see the facilities yourself. Because I can guarantee that none of you would ever want to work in them, let alone let your children or grandchildren be in them.

Thank you.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: I have a question.

Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, Dist 12: Yes, Senator Johnson.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Do you have a code officer in town?

Ms. Cathy Campbell: I believe we have a building inspector. Code officer, I don't believe we do. We have a fire chief who's come in and said...he helped get the sprinkler system in the **100 Wing**.

But, the point is, we don't want to keep...we're trying to, hopefully, go for the special election to get our schools built. And we're trying to get people to vote for them. You shouldn't have to vote on something that is so critical as air quality for your children. It shouldn't have to be voted on. Christina is right. We have to find a way for the state to say, "These buildings are unacceptable. You have no choice." You don't vote on them.

At some point I would invite you to come and see our buildings for yourselves because I think you would be horrified. I know a lot of parents like myself have to do what we have to do. Some people can have the choice to home school. Some people have to work. I have a business. My children are in the school system. I was PTA President, Vice President; and we do all we can. But there are a lot of things we just can't get done.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: I guess I would suggest, when you go back, just to be sure...see if you have a code officer. Because in some towns like my own town we have a code officer who is also the health officer for the town and I would suggest you ought to try that route anyway.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: I did ask. And I called the State Board of Education and I couldn't get a hold of Mr. Donohue. I got a hold of another woman and she kind of....

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: Are you saying that the reports that you have from the Department of Health and Human Services indicate these buildings are....

Ms. Cathy Campbell: Would you like a copy of them?

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: Yes. Did they say they're detrimental to a child's health?

Ms. Cathy Campbell: It says here:

> *"These standards are developed for healthy adult workers and may not be protective for most sensitive populations, such as children."*

And I've got things that are highlighted:

> *"Roof and foundation leaks, mold problems in the carpets during the wet, warm summer months. The roofs are reported to have been repaired approximately 10 years ago with rubberized membranes."*

Now they have been ruined because of the snow. We've got buckets everywhere in the elementary school.

> *"Lack of adequate ventilation in much of the school. Elevated carbon dioxide requirements. Build-up of dirt and cobwebs.*

I know that's a cleaning thing but sometimes...we work very hard (sic). They took care of the paint and chemicals and properly stored. We've got water damage everywhere. All **12 areas tested** to show high above the levels of **CO2**. And we've got unsealed concrete, unhealthful mold growth, foundation drainage problems, water damage, oil drips - painting and chemical cleaners I think they've taken care of. We have no adequate storage for anything in our schools.

This is why we're desperately trying to get these schools. Senator Barnes will be there tonight to listen to what we have to say. And I hope he takes note of it all.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: What I want to say is that I have known from experience that a fire marshal (indiscernible) health and human services threatened to close school. And I thought the Department of (indiscernible) we have to look into it, had the authority to close a school because the school was detrimental.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: Good. I hope they do.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: Have you asked for that?

Ms. Cathy Campbell: Yes. I believe...not in writing. We have called...I've called the State Department of Education to see what they can come down and do; and I haven't talked personally with the man from...yeah, I haven't talked to Nick Donohue. He's been to our town and he was at....

Yes, here it does say:

> *"Potentially serious indoor air quality problem for occupants of the building."*

To me, that's a serious problem.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: I know in my town I'd go to a lawyer and try to get the pro bono lawyer group to get their free pro bono people to try to help you out and threaten the state.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Issue a subpoena.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: No need of it if it's true.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: I invite you.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: (Indiscernible) true; and I see it's not his fault. (Indiscernible) man shaking his head. I can't understand then why the building's still open.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: I wish I knew. But I do invite you all to come down and take a look at the facilities.

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: (Indiscernible) Senator Barnes.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: Thank you, very much.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Thank you. Is there anyone that would like to speak again? Yes?

Ms. Christina Vogel: Just in response to all of these things that you are saying to us. It's hard for us to replay exactly what we have done for the past year, the past two years, the past three years. We have tried over, and over and over to come up with a plan bringing to our community (sic) that they can vote on a new building.

The residents...the majority shows we want new buildings. But we don't have enough of a majority for a variety of reasons. There were some people walking around town that were flashing RSA's and flashing letters from previous superintendents that called us liars last year when we made comments on some things related to this. It was awful. It was horrible.

And, I remember being told by one member of the opposition that as long as we do some thing every year, we show we have some kind of a plan, our schools cannot be shut down...doesn't matter what it is. You cleaned out your filters this year. OK, check that off. We'll be back again next year. You washed your carpeting. You used a special solvent. OK, well that was an attempt. Check it off this year. We'll come back next year. Nothing addresses the major issues.

How do you address the issue of an open concept school that had partitions put up floor to ceiling? Classrooms with no air ducts whatsoever for children as young as 6. Now, these may not be life-threatening conditions; but it clearly affects their learning in school. Unusually high levels of carbon dioxide may not poison you, but it creates...a child would become lethargic. Think about anybody who is up and active and busy all day long. By the afternoon you're naturally tired. Add in the high levels of carbon dioxide. Kids are falling asleep. They're not concentrating. They're irritable. They cannot work. That is not an environment conducive to education.

And we are trying. We have tried repeatedly to go to the voters. The HVAC system I mentioned that we voted on was not to fix it next year. It was to put it on a capital reserve fund that we would fix a few years from now. What do you do with the children that are there now? It affects them.

We have a high dropout rate at the high school level. Our schools are not properly maintained. And you cannot blame the people who are working there. It's the voters. We, as a community, are not supporting our schools; and that's why we feel we need help from the state level.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Just a question, Senator? How many members on your school board?

Ms. Christina Vogel: Five. Five actual members.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: And how have they been voting on these issues?

Ms. Christina Vogel: You really want me to be honest?

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Sure.

Ms. Christina Vogel: A lot of them are voting against what we're doing. In fact, we were on the building committee. The school board did not work cooperatively with us to promote the proposal to the level that we felt they needed to do. That was why **Project Schools** originated.

We citizens are getting things done by forcing and fighting. I'm spending way too much time and energy on this. I should be home taking care of my children. My poor children. "Mommy, you're on the phone again? Mommy, you're going to another meeting?" I'm supposed to be home schooling. And if we had selectmen, representatives, various officials in our town who honestly valued education and wanted to see something done, I feel we would do it.

Now, I don't want it to look like this is all I care about. I do care about the entire community. I'm in a one-income family. My husband and I have to pick and choose every single day what we get, what we don't get. We don't go on vacations. We don't get to visit our parents. The children are missing out on their grandparents because we have to save the monies to do what we need to do. And had we better schools....

Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, Dist 12: Excuse me. I'm hearing roll call. We have representatives that need to go up for voting. It's obvious that this study needs to go forward and that there needs to be some teeth probably behind all of this.

Ms. Christina Vogel: I hope what I'm saying is helpful.

Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, Dist 12: Yes, it is.

Ms. Christina Vogel: I don't want it to come off like I'm whiny because I care about all of the children. I have a degree in education; and I seriously want the entire community to find a way to work together without

overburdening the taxpayers. I've got neighbors who are senior citizens who support this. So...thanks again.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: Thank you.

Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, Dist 12: Thank you, very much. Is there anyone that would like to speak again? I am running late into my next hearing...

Representative Warren C. Henderson, Dist 20: I think we can probably...I think a lot of the details and why there's no response can be covered in the committee study.

Senator Jane E. O'Hearn, Dist 12: Right. I thank you all, very much. We recognize there is a problem; and there's a good indication there's a need for the study. My advice to you is to follow-up the study if you're not getting anywhere in Raymond. Follow this study in the house. Just find out when it's being called and attend some of those hearings during the summer study so that you can testify to it.

Senator Carl R. Johnson, Dist 3: I think you ought to go the legal route. I agree with Senator Disnard.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: We're heading there. We were hoping we didn't have to. It's been discussed for years now. We keep thinking we've got a building committee; we'll come up with a plan; we'll vote on it and we'll wait and see. Well, the waiting is done. It's been at least **8 years,** if not **11.**

Senator George F. Disnard, Dist 8: I think if you took a newspaper who's interested, next time it rains, see those buckets. The next time the (indiscernible) show, take a colored picture. Have them come around. I think you'd get some action.

Ms. Cathy Campbell: I hate to say it; but I don't have that kind of faith in enough of the voters. That (sic) there's always just enough to keep us falling short. I called the fire marshal to have him come down and look at that.

Senator Jane O'Hearn, Dist 12: Thank you.

The hearing on House Bill 329-FN-L was closed at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Chandler
Senate Secretary

Transcription:
Kathleen Lewis Hennessy
Senate Secretary

Attachment #(1)

Testimony from the NH Department of Health and Human Services regarding:

HOUSE BILL *329-FN-LOCAL*
AN ACT establishing a committee to study indoor air quality & fire safety in schools.
SPONSORS: Rep. Estabrook, Straf 8
COMMITTEE: Education
DATE OF TESTIMONY: April 4, 2002.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am Matthew Cahillane, an environmental scientist representing the NH Department of Health and Human Services, and I will be providing you with information regarding indoor air quality activities currently undertaken by DHHS in regard to public schools, as well as our current knowledge of indoor air quality problems in the state.

What the DHHS does regarding school indoor air quality. Indoor air quality, or IAQ for short, is a rapidly growing concern in New Hampshire schools. I currently coordinate the Indoor Air Quality Program within the DHHS that has a mission of providing IAQ phone consultations, limited site visits, and trainings for schools and public buildings. The program currently supports one full time staff person to address most of the IAQ problems in the state, with periodic support from an epidemiologist and health educator when they are available. In response to the rise in public concerns, health problems, and school closures, the DHHS chose to fund this effort through limited general funds, CDC block grants and grants from the EPA. During calendar year 2001, the Indoor Air Quality Program responded to about 350 requests for assistance from the public, which included 68 requests from schools. Recently, our call volume has increased to the point that we try to respond to school and public building requests, but are only able to provide information by mail for residential and private employer requests. Our work with schools usually includes a phone consultation and a later site visit, then a written report is sent to the school administration. The school administration may or may not choose to act on our suggested actions to improve indoor air quality. We encourage long-term management of school indoor air quality through an EPA-funded training program called indoor air 'Tools for Schools'.

Our partners in these school efforts include the NH DES, Department of Education, the US EPA, and local health officers. We do not currently work with the Fire Marshal's office on school health issues, but would be interested in discussing our common goals, as well as any conflicting goals. However, we currently lack the resources needed to respond to the dramatic increase in requests for assistance which we have seen over the past few years.

What the DHHS is not able, or authorized, to do in schools and state buildings. With our current resources, the DHHS is able to visit 12 to 24 schools per year, and would not be able to physically inspect all schools on an annual basis. Under RSA 125:9, DHHS is authorized to investigate indoor air quality problems in all buildings, but does

not have an enforcement mechanism unless it can prove there is an immediate threat to life or health. Under RSA 200:11, DHHS has authority to investigate schools for sanitary conditions, but the RSA does not have specific language or rules regarding enforcement actions. Under RSA 10B, which is the 'Clean Air in State Buildings' Act, DHHS has the authority to certify new and leased state buildings through an indoor air inspection review process, but this does not apply to local schools. Further, RSA 10B is not designed to be an annual process, but only occurs at the time of building commissioning or when a lease is renewed.

What we know about indoor air quality in NH. There appear to be three main trends affecting schools and indoor air quality in general. First, the physical condition of many school buildings has deteriorated, often due to factors such as minimal funding for school maintenance or capital improvements. These conditions frequently results in increased pollution or overcrowding, as noted in a number of national surveys and as reported in a July 2000 NH Department of Education report on school facility conditions. Second, fresh air ventilation rates have declined, particularly since the 1970's Energy Crisis; and this often leads to the buildup of pollutants such as carbon dioxide, radon, mold, and dust. And third, rates of asthma, allergies and sinusitis have been on the rise for the past two decades of surveillance. These three trends have been observed in a number of NH schools. An assessment of the state situation was reported in a 1994 legislative report written through the DHHS entitled 'Indoor Air Quality – Health Impacts and Control Measures' under HB 1568. Copies of this report are available if the committee would like to read about past research efforts.

What we don't know about school IAQ in NH. DHHS does not have a surveillance system that tracks and reports on the types and numbers of people affected by poor indoor air quality. We are beginning to track asthma through a CDC funded surveillance system, but it is just being put into place, and will not be providing complete and accurate data for at least three years. The NH Department of Education has a voluntary health survey of schools, which reports on asthma, but only captures a small proportion of the schools in the state.

In conclusion, the DHHS supports the legislature's efforts to study and address indoor air quality issues and would be pleased to provide any support that you deem fit. If invited to join the effort, we would work with the Legislature to update the 1994 IAQ Report, look at how to best prioritize school inspections, define what type of inspections and air quality testing would be appropriate, and decide how to use the results of these inspections not only to improve indoor air quality in the schools, but to improve the health of the students and staff as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have for me at this time.

Attachment #2

RECEIVED
FEB 12 2001
SAU

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

6 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301-6527
603-271-4507 1-800-852-3345, Ext. 4507 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964

Donald L. Shumway
Commissioner

Kathleen A. Dunn
Director

February 7, 2001

Mr. St. Cyr, Superintendent
Raymond School District SAU # 33
43 Harriman Hill Road
Raymond, New Hampshire 03077

Subject: Iber Holmes Gove Middle School- Indoor Air Quality Survey

Dear Mr. St. Cyr,

Thank you for your interest in the indoor air quality (IAQ) within your school district. At your request, I conducted a site visit on December 15, 2000 to assess the IAQ concerns you have at the Iber Holmes Gove Middle School. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is providing this assistance to your school and several others as part of our "School Asthma Pilot Project" and EPA " Tools for Schools" program.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states "poor indoor air quality can cause illness requiring absence from school, and can cause acute health symptoms that decrease performance while at school" (US EPA August 2000 Fact Sheet). As we've discussed, many schools in New Hampshire are dealing with similar issues according to a recent legislative study (New Hampshire Department of Education [NHDOE], "New Hampshire Public Schools Facilities Adequacy and Condition Study Report", August 21, 2000).

I took air quality measurements during my survey and compared these testing results to the RSA 10-B indoor air quality standards. Although indoor air quality is not regulated for schools under these regulations, the state standards contained in RSA 10-B and He-P 1804 Clean Air in State Buildings provide useful guidelines. It is important to remember, however, that these standards are developed for healthy adult workers and may not be protective for more sensitive populations such as children.

Observations / Results

Your staff reported to me that the school has a history of problems with uneven temperatures, poor ventilation, vermin (bats), damaged siding, fuel oil leaks, and roof leaks. Mr. Tony Ricci, Facilities Manager, accompanied me during my visit and provided background information about this building. He stated that the school was originally built in 1918, with the large middle section being constructed in the 1960's. He further explained that the Modular classrooms were added 5 years ago. The roof was reported to have been covered approximately 2 years ago with a rubberized membrane.

Our general observations confirmed the apparent lack of adequate ventilation in much of the school. This was based on the lack of mechanical ventilation devices in most of the building and the uncomfortably warm and "stuffy" feeling throughout the school.

It was also observed that many of the heating units, air vents and horizontal surfaces were dusty and/ or had cobwebs. Some floor areas had a build-up of dirt and cobwebs in the corners as well as noticeable dirt and odors in many of the carpets. The center areas of the hard surface floors, however, were mostly quite clean. Mold growths were noted in several areas, as were mouse droppings. There was no visible bat guano in the school. It was apparent as well that cleaning and painting chemicals were being used in improperly vented areas, releasing solvent odors into the school. Evidence of historical water damage and the foundation drainage problems was observed. Another general observation was the overall low humidity levels in the school.

I measured 14 selected areas of your school for the indoor air quality parameters of carbon dioxide (CO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), relative humidity (RH) and temperature (T) with a TSI meter. The 14 areas tested are listed in the table below. I also looked for mold, dust, ventilation or other relevant factors that may impact indoor air quality. The criteria used to select the areas include 1) where health complaints had been reported, 2) to provide a variety of samples, 3) or to follow-up on previous measurements.

All 14 areas measured were within the state guidelines of 5 ppm for CO. Three of the 14 areas were outside of the "comfort" guidelines (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers "ASHRAE") for temperature (approximately 68 to 78 degrees Fahrenheit). Eleven of the measured areas were somewhat below the ASHRAE comfort guideline of 30 % to 60% RH. These "dry air" readings are typical to many buildings during the winter, and may cause occupants to feel nasal and throat irritation.

Twelve of the 14 areas tested showed high levels of CO_2. These readings would indicate that the school has significant fresh air ventilation problems that should be addressed. The state guideline for ventilation rates is 20 cubic feet per minute of fresh air per person. While detailed engineering evaluations provide the most accurate analysis of ventilation rates, a more simple method of measuring the CO_2 levels in the air provides a helpful indicator. Carbon dioxide is a product of human exhalation or combustion. It is not

hazardous except at very high levels (e.g. 5,000 to 10,000 parts per million [ppm]). The state guidelines recommend that CO_2 levels not exceed 1000 ppm in occupied spaces or 800 ppm in unoccupied spaces. The December 15th measurements reflect occupied spaces unless otherwise noted. Bold values are outside of the guidelines and asterisks note very high (or very low in the case of RH) levels. The following areas were measured:

Room/ Area Guideline limits	CO_2 1000/ 800 ppm	Repeat CO_2 1000/ 800 ppm	CO 5 ppm	T° 68-78 F	RH 30-60%
100 Wing Corridor	**1394**	NA	1	NA	**28.5**
100 Wing 2nd Floor (vacant, dirty carpet, mouse droppings)	**1402**	NA	1	76.4	**25.1**
122 (dusty heaters, dirty carpet)	**1924**	NA	1	74.7	**28.5**
124 (dirty carpet, dirt/ paint chips on floor and in heater)	**1349**	NA	1	76.2	**25.1**
136 (dirty carpet, dust and cobwebs in floor corners and on horizontal surfaces and heater)	**1426**	NA	1	76.9	**24.6**
202 Art (solvent and paint odors)	**2268***	NA	1	74.0	31.8
210 Girls Bath (no ventilation components)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Boys Locker (vacant, mold odor, ceiling leaks)	**1372**	NA	1	71.2	**24.5**
Boiler Room (strong fuel oil odor, old floor drain w/ historical chemical dumping)	578	NA	0	69.4	**23.0**
Conference Room (slight fuel oil odor)	**1213**	**1449**	0	**67.3**	**21.1**
Main Corridor	**1185**	NA	0	**65.6**	**28.1**
Modular 3 (vacant, dusty air vents and horizontal surfaces, dirty carpet, frayed roof edge, saturated moldy skirting)	**1052**	NA	1	**56.1**	34.5
Nurses office (dusty heaters, no mechanical ventilation)	**1953**	NA	1	75.4	**24.5**
Tech Ed. (passive ceiling fans, no mechanical ventilation)	**1978**	**1735**	0	71.1	**28.1**

The building skirting material surrounding the modular classroom is porous, saturated plywood. This appears to create a pathway for water or moisture to seep into these

classrooms and potentially cause unhealthful mold growths. Mold was also visible in the ceiling insulation, along with rusty water damage stains on the ceiling in the Boys Locker Room. Extensive mouse dropping were noted around the chimney in the 100 Wing Corridor on the 2nd floor. The roof material on the edge of the Modular classrooms was frayed and may provide a pathway for leaks into the building. The dirty carpeting and low ventilation rates were very noticeable through out the building. In addition, the old shingled section of the school showed extensive wear and damage to the siding, which probably does not adequately protect the building from moisture damage. The entry door for this Modular building was poorly fitted and left a large gap where water or moisture damage may occur.

Cleaning chemical, paint solvent or fuel oil odors were noticeable in the Conference Room, Boiler Room, and Art Room. Many of the chemicals being used appeared to be respiratory irritants. These rooms were inadequately vented as indicated by the persistent chemical and solvent odors.

Conclusions

1) Efforts to improve the ventilation rates of fresh air are very important particularly for the rooms with CO_2 readings exceeding 2000 ppm. These are high levels indicating notably deficient ventilation (see asterik in the above table). These high CO_2 levels in concert with the poor ventilation indicate a potentially serious indoor air quality problem for occupants of the building. Some schools have had to temporarily consider using fresh air 'fire/ smoke ventilation fans' (keep classroom doors open), or opening doors and windows when possible to address the short- term need for more fresh air intake. We recommend that these practical steps to upgrade the fresh air ratios be undertaken as soon as possible in the school until more permanent measures can be achieved. There may also be other appropriate steps to consider.

Recommended Action:
Immediate short-term measures should be taken to improve the amount of fresh air in the school particularly in the high CO_2 areas, or "parallel" rooms with similar construction and ventilation mechanisms, until a more permanent solution can be achieved. Contact a licensed ventilation contractor to determine if the fresh air intake motors or other ventilation components can be upgraded to bring the school closer to the 20 cfm per person (or 1000 ppm CO_2) guidelines and to better stabilize temperatures and humidity.

2) The ventilation is inadequate to accommodate any use of spray painting or use of other potentially harmful chemicals or solvents in the school.

Recommended Action:
Store the cleaning chemicals away from any occupied areas in a well ventilated room. Secure the chemical storage area away from the children. Avoid the use of any potentially harmful or irritating paints, solvents, pesticides, or other chemicals inside the building. Consider into substituting less harmful cleaners, pesticides or building maintenance

chemicals. Consider installing "spot exhausts" for any areas where chemicals, painting, solvents are used or school crafts projects are to be done.

3) The Modular classrooms appear to have moisture/ foundation drainage/ or roof leak issues that should be further evaluated for repairs. Moisture problems can cause the growth of molds, which can exacerbate sensitive individuals with asthma or allergies (EPA see "Mold Kit" previously submitted). There also appeared to be insulation that was inadequate to protect against temperature differential condensates and subsequent mold growths. The exterior shingle siding of the old school wing is failing and will likely cause leaking and possible unhealthful mold inside this wing.

Recommended Action: Any roof leaks, wet, moldy, or inadequate insulation (for protection from temperature barrier condensation), or foundation drainage problems should be corrected particularly for the Modular classrooms and in the Boys Locker area. The wet plywood skirting should be removed and replace with watertight materials. Similarly, the frayed roof edge and front door to Modular classroom 3 should be repaired. Consider sealing any exposed concrete floors or knee walls with a waterproof sealant. Other "parallel" classrooms with similar construction should be similarly evaluated and any continuing leaks corrected. Repair or replace the shingle siding of the old school building. Ensure that adequate insulation and vapor barriers are first installed before re-shingling.

4) The floor corners, unit heaters, and ceiling air vents were observed to have accumulations of dust and other potential allergens. Accumulations of dirt were noted at the major entrance / exit doors. It appeared that the dirt from the recess yard was being heavily tracked into the school building.

Recommended Action:
Regular detailed cleaning and filter changes are recommended to remove dust accumulation in the unit heaters and/or air vents in each room. Quarterly vacuuming of the heating and air vents is suggested. Additional regular detailed cleaning of the floors and major traffic areas are also recommended.

5) There is a need to pay attention to the carpeted areas in schools. These areas pose particular opportunities for residuals of allergens of dust, insects, odors or other common allergens to collect. Dirt and odors were noted in most of the carpeted rooms.

Recommended Action:
The carpeted areas should be scheduled for replacement with hard surface floor covers. Washable cotton mats for each individual child are a better alternative to avoid exposure to the many allergens that carpets collect. In the short-term, carpeted areas are where more regular detailed cleaning is recommended.

6) A rodent infestation was noted in the 2nd floor chimney areas. Mice and other vermin pose unhealthy condition and may cause respiratory illness in sensate individuals.

Recommended Action:
Exterminate the mice in the ceiling space near the chimney and seal or screen all possible access points for vermin to reduce the risk of unhealthful conditions. For similar reasons, do not allow pets in the classrooms as pets can be significant sources of indoor air pollutants.

7) The fuel oil odors in the Conference Room and open floor drain in the Boiler Room need to be addressed.

Recommended Action:
Don't use the conference for more than an hour at a time until adequate ventilation can be provided. Evaluate the historical dumping of fuel or chemicals in the Boiler Room floor drain. If the spillage was extensive, contact the NH Department of Environmental Services (271-3505) for clean-up assistance. Then fill the floor drain with concrete to avoid any future chemical or fuel spills.

Additional Recommendations:

8) Continue your efforts to follow through with the "Tools for Schools" program and improving the education and inclusion of staff and parents in the process.

9) Encourage parents of children with asthma or allergies to similarly try to reduce or remove common allergens in their homes or child care facilities (e.g. dust mites, pet dander, insects wastes, mold etc.), which may be also affecting their child's health at school.

We hope this information is helpful. As a courtesy or by request, I have also sent a copy to the NH DOE and the Local Health officer. Please call our office @ (603) 271-4664 for further assistance.

Sincerely,
Vallana W. Pratt-D.
Vallana W. Pratt-Decker
Environmental Health Specialist

Attachments: Tools for Schools, Mold Kit, IAQ Kit, EPA School Fact Sheets

Cc:
N.Donohue, B.Porter, K.Rannie – NHDOE
H.Pelchat – ABC-BS / School Asthma Pilot Project
L.Hannan – NHDHHS Health Officer
Local Health Officer

Speakers

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Date: 04/04/02 *Time:* 1:00 PM

Public Hearing on: HB 329-FN-L - (New Title) establishing a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

FAVOR	OPPOSED	Name	Representing	SPEAKING?
☒	☐	Repr. John Alger	GRAFTON #9	☐
☑	☐	Rep. Charles Sova	Grafton - 11	☐
☒	☐	REP. WATSON HENDERSON	ROCK 20	☒
☒	☐	Rep Russell Cox	Rockingham 24	☒
☒	☐	Karen Kelly	self	☐
☑	☐	ANNE KUBINA	DHHS	☐
☒	☐	Matthew Caballero	DHHS	☒
☒	☐	Kim Schellera (28)	Raymond	☒
☑	☐	Christine Vogel		☒
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐
☐	☐			☐

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: April 15, 2002

THE COMMITTEE ON Education

to which was referred House Bill 329-FN-L

AN ACT (New Title) establishing a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

VOTE: 4-0

Having considered the same, report the same without amendment and recommend that the bill: **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator George F. Disnard
For the Committee

|HB329 Docket

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

Bill Title: (New Title) establishing a committee to study indoor air quality and fire safety in public schools.

Date	Body	Description
1/25/2001	**H**	Introduced and ref to Education; HJ18, p241
1/30/2001	**H**	Copy to Chairman on 1/30/2001
1/30/2001	**H**	Hearing Feb 7 11:00 RM207,LOB
2/13/2001	**H**	Subcom Work Session Feb 20 9:00 RM207,LOB (Rep C Jean)
2/20/2001	**H**	==CANCELLED(Storm)==Subcom Work Session Mar 6 9:00 RM207,LOB
3/5/2001	**H**	Rescheduled Subcom Work Session Mar 9 9:00 RM207,LOB
4/12/2001	**H**	Retained in Committee
12/11/2001	**H**	Maj Report OTP/AM for Jan 2 (vote 15-0;CC)
12/21/2001	**H**	Prop Maj Am{2045}(New Title); HC1,13
1/2/2002	**H**	Passed with Am; HJ5, p187 + 248
3/14/2002	**S**	Introduced and Ref. to Education; SJ 7, Pg.199
3/28/2002	**S**	Hearing; April 4, 2002, Room 105-A, SH, 1:00 p.m.; SC20
4/15/2002	**S**	Committee Report; Ought to Pass [04/16/02]; SC25A
4/16/2002	**S**	Ought to Pass, MA, VV, Refer to Finance [Rule 24]; SJ 11, Pg.353
4/17/2002	**S**	Committee Report; Ought to Pass, [04/18/02]; SC26A
4/18/2002	**S**	Ought to Pass, MA, VV; OT3rdg, MA, VV; SJ 12, Pg.413
4/25/2002	**H**	Enrolled Am{3674}, Adopted; HJ40, p1471
4/25/2002	**S**	Enrolled Bill Amendment {3674}, Adopted; SJ 13, Pg.523
5/2/2002	**H**	Enrolled; HJ40, p1488
5/2/2002	**S**	Enrolled; SJ 14, Pg.561-562
5/15/2002	**H**	Signed by the Governor on 5/15/2002 Eff: 5/15/2002 Chap: 0173

Next|Prev|Results List|Main|Bill Status

Docket Abbreviations