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Dear Claypit Hill parents, staff and area residents:


In the coming weeks, you may hear others talking about the Claypit Hill School site and the possible contamination of the ground soil in the staff parking lot. This matter dates back to the removal of an underground oil tank in December 1985. The site is registered with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) and has been "monitored" for this entire period of time.

While talk of ground soil and water contamination sounds ominous, I write to assure you that we have been told by both the local and state officials, who are once again investigating the Claypit Hill site, that this does not pose a health threat to any students, staff, or other users of the school building or grounds. This is important, as obviously the safety of your children and all others who use this facility is of paramount concern to school officials. Some history of the site may be helpful.

 This past year school officials received notification from the MA DEP that the ground soil in the staff parking lot and alongside the foundation of the classrooms that abut the parking lot must be thoroughly tested again to see if there are any remaining contaminants resulting from the removal of the oil tank twenty-three years ago. At the time of removal, it was properly noted that the oil tank had leaked and some of the soil immediately around the tank was contaminated. By the standards of the day (1985), the site was immediately cleaned up and the parking lot paved over. However, as a result of the original leakage, the site has been listed with the MA DEP as a potential site for further testing to see if additional clean-up measures are necessary. The testing is underway now and will continue throughout the school year and next. Mostly this involves taking samples of ground water and soil from selected areas on the school property.

After twenty-three years, this problem is unwelcome and somewhat unexpected; however, public safety is always a serious matter, and we will comply fully with state officials and do whatever is deemed necessary. I will keep the School Committee and all school families and our Claypit Hill neighbors properly informed. For those who would like additional information regarding this matter, you are encouraged to call or write John Moynihan, the town's Director of Public Buildings, as he is the official most responsible for overseeing this matter. John can be reached at 508-358-3786 or at jmoynihan@wayland.ma.us. Parents or others who would like to speak with me about this or other school matters are encouraged to contact me directly. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Burton
Superintendent of Schools