



Howard County Council

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Environmental Sustainability Board Submits HCPSS Mold Report to Council

Ellicott City, MD (November 3, 2016) – The Howard County Council received a report from the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) on the Howard County Public School System's (HCPSS) mold issue, pursuant to Council Resolution 31-2016, which was passed unanimously. The legislation requested that the Environmental Sustainability Board prepare an analysis which evaluates studies performed by the School System's Indoor Environmental Quality Advisory Committee and any indoor environmental air consultants to inspect for the presence of mold in Howard County Public Schools.

"It's clear from the latest findings that the School System has room for more improvement and better transparency moving forward," said Dr. Calvin Ball of the County Council. "We will continue to ensure that our educators and children are in a safe learning environment. I would like to personally thank the members of the Environmental Sustainability Board for their time and commitment in evaluating the available studies and look forward to an informative discussion at our next monthly meeting."

The Environmental Sustainability Board's observations include:

- The protocols adopted by HCPSS are consistent with controlling moisture as a means to limit mold. However, in many cases the studies reviewed by the ESB included specific recommendations to address specific moisture issues. We did not see documentation reporting that the specific recommendation had been taken, nor were we privy to any evaluation of the effectiveness of the corrective actions. The HCPSS website provided only spotty information on the status of specific corrective actions.
- There are no applicable industry or governmental standards for mold.
- Adverse health effects due to mold are highly dependent on individual sensitivity.
- Several studies provided a useful context on indoor mold levels referencing ambient outdoor levels as a means to qualitatively assess indoor levels. The Skelly and Loy report helpfully referenced mold concentrations as "typical for public schools in similar geographic regions for the time of year."

The ESB reviewed studies from Aria Environmental Inc., Global Facility Solutions, LLC, BMS-CAT, Building Dynamics, LLC, and Skelly and Loy Inc. The following schools were evaluated: Centennial Lane Elementary; ElkrIDGE Elementary; Laurel Woods Elementary; Lisbon Elementary; Pointers Run Elementary; Rockburn Elementary; St. John's Lane Elementary; Talbott Springs Elementary; Glenwood Middle; Mount View Middle; Glenelg High; and Wilde Lake High Schools.

The Environmental Sustainability Board will present their findings during the Council's Monthly Meeting on November 14, 2016 at 8:30am in the in the C. Vernon Gray Conference Room, at the George Howard Building.

The report can be viewed at <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/GetFile.aspx?id=10358>.

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