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42 Willow Street
Reading, MA. 01867
June 20, 2006

Ms. Jane Fiore
Town of Reading Health Administrator
Reading, MA

Dear Ms. Fiore;

Approximately one year ago we sent you a letter expressing concerns about the unhealthy heat and air quality conditions at the Wood End School. Since there has been no public report by the school department of anything being done to mitigate these issues, we want to be sure that these unhealthy conditions are not perpetuated simply because no one is aware of them.

Linda visited Wood End yesterday when the outside temperature was 94 degrees at 4:00 p.m., and the school's second floor classrooms were 90 degrees. While classroom ceiling fans were on, as well as ventilation motors audible, there was no fresh or moving air. The lights in some classrooms and the entire upstairs hallway were on, and student work tables and chairs used to educate children were still located in the hallway (in violation of Fire Dept. directives). The upstairs hallway temperature was 95 degrees with the sun shining through the skylight windows that still did not have shades installed. Despite the concerns we and others raised last year, apparently little has been done to mitigate the extreme heat and lack of ventilation at Wood End School.

We also wish to notify you that, after months of waiting, and ultimately state intervention, the Reading School Department finally released the Wood End School's public nursing incident health logs from last year, student names redacted. These logs reveal what we knew all along: children and staff have suffered in the heat and poor ventilation at that brand new school, particularly last spring where temperatures at times exceeded 100 degrees in the upstairs hallway. Contrary to what was reported to you by the Head School Nursing Director Lynn Dunne, the logs indicate dozens of heat related medical incidences.

While there may not be temperature regulations for a public school building, the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment (BEHA) "recommends that school indoor air temperatures are maintained in a range of 70 to 78 degrees in order to provide for the comfort of building occupants." Wood End School interior temperatures frequently exceed that measure by at least 15 degrees!

Another reoccurring issue since the school's opening in fall 2004 has been the odor of natural gas leaking within the school. Keyspan has recorded at least 10 visits to Wood End since January 2006. Wood End parents and teachers have not been kept abreast of this disturbing and potentially dangerous problem.

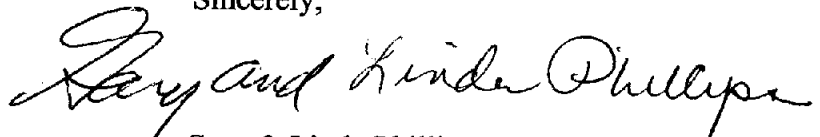
Where accountability and action are needed to correct HVAC design flaws, adequate heat during the winter and sufficient ventilation during the warmer months, student's needs have been continually neglected. Rather than correct and mitigate the problems, School Administration and School Committee have chosen to "shoot the messenger", retaliate against those who dare raise issues. Teachers last year repeatedly raised ventilation and air quality issues, yet nothing has been resolved, and teachers and staff have been bullied into silence.

We have grave concerns that a health professional hired to oversee the health and welfare of Reading's student population has purposefully misrepresented public health information and obstructed public access in an effort to conceal hazards and building flaws. When incomplete information is provided to you by other public employees who know otherwise, serious health conditions can be overlooked, or buried, leaving both students and teachers at risk at that facility.

Please, do not allow another cover up of the serious air quality problems at that school to persist. For the sake of the students and teaching staff, we ask you to intervene to insure that the students and staff do not further endure unhealthy and unsafe conditions at Wood End, conditions that Reading school officials have failed to address.

Thank you for your service to the children in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary and Linda Phillips". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary & Linda Phillips

Cc: Selectmen

Town Manager

Asst. Town Manager

Attached: Some copies of Nursing Logs