

COPY

To: Mrs. Jane Fiore, Health Administrator, Town of Reading
Re: Corrections relating to the *Boston Sunday Globe* article of 9/18/05

An overwhelming majority of the teaching faculty and educational support staff at the A.M. Barrows School strongly object to a number of erroneous and inaccurate statements recently published in the *Boston Sunday Globe*, dated September 18, 2005. As the staff assigned to the Wood End Elementary School in Reading for the 2004-2005 academic year, we experienced firsthand both the lack of heat during the winter months and the excessive temperatures that were present during late May and continued throughout the month of June.

Our objections specifically relate to the following misstatement found in the *Globe* article:

The town's health administrator, Jane Fiore, "found no evidence that faculty members complained about the temperature inside the school."

To the contrary, the faculty repeatedly expressed their concerns verbally and in writing, to both the principal and Superintendent Schettini, regarding the high temperatures on the upper level, in particular. Classroom temperatures ranged from the high 80's and 90's, while the indoor corridor temperatures were recorded at 105 to 115 degrees. It was only in response to the staff's concern for children's health in such extreme temperatures that high-powered industrial fans were positioned to alleviate the intense heat radiating from shadeless skylights on the second level. Additionally, teachers at all levels consistently responded to heat-related student complaints by sending children to the health office. The nursing staff treated every child experiencing heat-related illnesses by offering icepacks, cool compresses, and other temperature reducing remedies.

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The teaching faculty and support staff at the A.M. Barrows School will continue to be diligent, not negligent, in meeting the needs of our students and will speak with honesty and integrity to correct any misconceptions regarding the health and safety of all the students entrusted to our care.

Submitted by: An Overwhelming Majority (42 out of 49) of the Former Wood End Teaching Faculty and the Educational Assistant Support Staff: Personnel Who Provided Direct Services to Students in Classrooms, not in the Air-Conditioned Office Area

10/3/05
showed copy to Peter Heckambler
advice - no response of name.
10/4/05
spoke with super. of schools, he rec'd
letter no name no response
D. Miller

Received
10/8/05

OCT 03 2005
Reading Health Division