



Pittsfield Public Schools

Administration Center
269 First Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Superintendent of Schools
Jason P. McCandless, Ed.D.

(413) 499-9512
FAX (413) 448-2643

jmccandless@pittsfield.net

December 20, 2018

Dear Reid Families,

We have had some concerns over fumes in a few specific rooms at Reid Middle School that seem to be related to the heating system. We have been working with the City Maintenance Department, the Pittsfield Fire Department and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bureau of Environmental Health to determine if there is an issue, and if so, how to proceed.

On November 30 an inspector from the Commonwealth came and conducted measurements to help us better understand the issues. Room 207 is directly adjacent to the chimney of the heating system. The cause of this issue appears to be a combination of migration of materials through interior walls and downdrafts in the air and their impacts on air trying to escape the chimney. No other areas of the building have been identified as problematic. This room had already been closed for both student and teacher use earlier in the year, prior to the inspector coming on November 30 and will not be utilized again until the issue is fixed.

It is believed, based on the report received on December 18 from the Commonwealth that there is likely migration of combustion-related materials in room 207--and that readings taken were above acceptable levels in that room as well as 101 and 205 for carbon dioxide. It should be noted that the rooms in question and the surrounding areas were also tested for carbon *monoxide* by City personnel and by the Commonwealth. There was no trace found of carbon monoxide.

We will not be using rooms 101,103, 205, or 207 until the issue or issues have been completely addressed and re-inspected by the Commonwealth.

Work to actually complete repairs will begin in late-January to early February.

We thank you for reading this, and of course, are at your service to discuss this should you have any questions. We are grateful to the City and to the Commonwealth for their assistance in identifying this important issue.

I may be reached at 413-499-9512, or at jmccandless@pittsfield.net, and will be in my office on Monday, December 24.

Thank you and have a safe and peaceful holiday.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. McCandless".

Jason P. McCandless, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools