



September 22, 2017  
File No. 5171-06-01

Mr. Joshua Watkins, Environmental Coordinator  
Worcester Public Schools  
20 Irving Street  
Worcester, MA 01609, MA 02035

RE: August 2017 PCB BMP Quarterly Examinations  
Burncoat High School

Dear Mr. Watkins,

At the request of the Worcester Public Schools, O'Reilly Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc. (OTO) has prepared this letter report to summarize our observations of materials in the subject school suspected of containing PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). This work is one part of the School Department's ongoing self-assessment of its best management practices (BMPs). The assessment was conducted in accordance with our June 30, 2017 proposal, and the Worcester Public Schools' BMP program.

The assessment consisted of: 1) the visual evaluations of the condition of caulk; 2) the condition of plenum air vents; and 3) the degree of dust present on windowsills and window frames at the school. OTO conducted these observations on Monday, August 21, 2017, in the presence of yourself and facility staff.

OTO observed 30 rooms or other spaces in the Burncoat High School building, including the cafeteria, kitchen, library, faculty break rooms and offices, auto trade shop, and classrooms, with general observations of hallway areas. General observations are summarized in the enclosed Table 2, and selected representative photographs are attached.

The overall quality of BMPs was very good for most of Burncoat. The interior over-caulking was intact in the spaces observed except for minor pieces of material missing from rooms D6A, E4 and F2. The vents for the sub-floor heating plenum were free of significant dust and debris.

WPS staff indicated on September 19, 2017 that the missing over-caulk in rooms D6A, E4 and F2 had been restored, along with the library, where no original caulking was present, but where new caulk was applied to seal an air gap. Over-caulking was also applied to the H-wing, which is occupied by the music department. The music department is actually located in the Burncoat Middle School building.

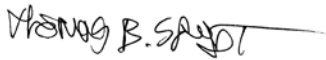
Certain low-occupancy areas such as the auto trade shop room and the hallway outside the gymnasium exhibited minor accumulated dust. School maintenance staff indicated that windowsills and adjacent surfaces had been wet-wiped prior to the start of classes in accordance with School Committee policy.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

In conclusion, our observations indicated that BMPs are being maintained to a high standard. OTO understands that WPS has requested these observations be conducted on a quarterly basis. We therefore suggest the next site visit be conducted in November 2017.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,  
O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc.



Thomas B. Speight, CHMM  
Project Manager



James D. Okun, LSP  
Principal

## Attachments

Table 1 – Summary of Observations for Burncoat High School  
Selected Photographs from Burncoat High School

Table 1 - Summary of BMP Observations  
Burncoat High School  
179 Burncoat Street  
Worcester, MA 01606  
August 21, 2017

Room	Condition of Caulk	Condition of Plenum Vents	Dust Accumulation
A6	VG	VG	VG
A14	VG	VG	VG
A16	VG	VG	VG
B1	VG	VG	VG
B2	VG	VG	VG
B4	VG	VG	VG
B9	VG	VG	VG
C4	VG	VG	VG
C6	VG	VG	VG
C9	VG	VG	VG
D1	VG	VG	VG
D3	VG	VG	VG
D6A	Needs Repair	VG	VG
D8	VG	VG	VG
D14	VG	VG	VG
D16	VG	VG	VG
D24	VG	VG	VG
E1	VG	VG	VG
E2	VG	VG	VG
E3	VG	VG	VG
E4	Needs Repair	VG	VG
E5A	VG	VG	VG
E8	VG	VG	VG
F2	Needs repair	VG	VG
F4	VG	VG	VG
Teacher's Lounge	VG	VG	VG
Auto Trade Shop	VG	VG	Some
Library	VG	VG	VG
Cafeteria	VG	VG	VG
Hallway Outside Gymnasium	VG	VG	Some

Note: Caulking in D6A, E4 and F2 was repaired by mid-September 2017

#### CATEGORIZATION

##### Dust

Very good = minimal dust or debris

Some = enough dust to leave a residue on a gloved finger

Moderate = visible accumulations of dust

Significant = thick layer of dust

##### Plenum Vents

Very good = minimal dust or debris

Some = enough dust to leave a residue on a gloved finger

Moderate = visible accumulations of dust

Significant = thick layer of dust

##### Caulk

Very Good = Overcaulking is intact, with no visible debris

Good = Overcaulking is generally intact but for minor patching

Needs repair = Overcaulking missing or damaged

## Site Photographs



**Photograph 1:** Typical window caulk, Burncoat room A6



**Photograph 2:** Typical plenum vent in floor, Burncoat room A6

## Site Photographs



**Photograph 3:** Plenum vent in library



**Photograph 4:** Counter along window demolished as part of asbestos abatement, showing plenum riser, Burncoat room F-8.



## Site Photographs



**Photograph 5:** Area of absent caulking, Burncoat room F2.



**Photograph 6:** Typical window caulk, Burncoat room C4