

For immediate release: November 16, 2010

Contact: Dr. Brian Howard, Interim Superintendent, Berlin Central School District, 518-658-2690

Re: Berlin CSD Interim Superintendent issues update on lead remediation action plan for BES

## **Berlin CSD Interim Superintendent issues update on lead remediation action plan**

On November 16, Dr. Brian Howard, the Interim Superintendent for the Berlin Central School District, issued an update on the lead remediation action plan for the Berlin Elementary School. The update of the action plan, which was created on October 19, will be given to the members of the district's board of education at tonight's board meeting, distributed to the public, and posted on the district's website.

In the update, Howard listed the steps of the original action plan, and noted in red ink the status of each step.

Immediate steps of the plan that have been completed or are ongoing include: the review of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) process for lead remediation, an increase of the cleaning process from one time per week to three times per week, and daily checking for paint chips around the outside of the building. Also the school's windows were ordered to remain closed, and hand washing supplies will be placed in each classroom by week's end to ensure the safety of students and teaching personnel. The only immediate step not yet completed is the wrapping of the pillars in plastic.

The update further stated that a full lead assessment was done on October 29 and 30, and by November 12, the resulting report was received and posted on the district's website.

In regard to the intermediate steps of the action plan, Howard noted that a "thorough clean-up of all corridor window surfaces (that is sills and wells)" began on November 13 and will be finished on November 20. In addition, according to the update, the recommendation that the district "stabilize all deteriorated lead based paint (LBP)" by encapsulating the surfaces, will be implemented during the December/January school break, pending approval of this work by the Board of Education.

The update concluded by outlining the long term steps. Howard will develop a plan for the abatement of lead and asbestos at BES by working with the Board of Education, the district's architect, and the State Education Department. This plan would then be submitted for voter approval in May 2011, and if approved the work will be done during the summer of 2011.

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