

Minutes from Environmental Committee Meeting

FOR MAY 27, 2021

Interim Superintendent, Mr. Frutos, opened the meeting, provided background and an overview of the agenda. Mr. Frutos also introduced committee members

-----OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY-----

Mr. Frutos spoke about outdoor air quality

- AQMD air quality monitors have existed for many years
- Over the last three years the focus and concerns have been on metals effecting air quality
- The district has partnered with AQMD for testing
 - Monitors are regularly checked
 - Monitors provide good information
 - Some monitors are placed at school sites
 - The Covid shutdown effected the AQMD service
- AQMD would like to remove the monitors at this time
- The City of Paramount would like the monitoring to continue
- The district started a separate conversation with AQMD asking in hopes to continue the partnership and leave monitors in place.
- If AQMD does not want to provide service, the district may look for alternative ways to continue testing.
- AQMD is now considering continue monitoring services

-----Discussions About Outdoor Air Quality-----

Board Member Gomez

- Wanted to clarify if the city does not want to have monitors, the district can do it independently?
 - **Mr. Frutos** – The District has a good relationship with AQMD and wishes to continue monitoring at sites

Ms. Resendiz- What money are we looking at?

- **Mr. Frutos** – we may be able to fund using one-time money

Ms. Flores- If the District monitors independently, will the area be the same as when we partnered with the city or only around schools?

- **Mr. Frutos** – The District recommends continuing the same program. The city may work in partnership with PUSD if AQMD removes the monitors

Board Member DeLeon

- We need to write the AQMD requesting monitoring services and advocation for monitoring
- If there is no action, then we need to self-monitor
- Attended a meeting regarding what another district was doing
- Look at ways to spend money on employees
- Put pressure on AQMD

- **Mr. Frutos** –AQMD should pay for monitors. If they change their minds, we may need to pay for the monitors to continue the service.

Board Member Gomez

- Listened to the Council meeting and AQMD pulling out. We want to continue monitoring. Community eager to have items posted

Mr. Cerda

- Supports spreading the money the district is receiving around the whole district.
- Asked if Prop65 – businesses are affected by emissions, companies can be held accountable. Is this true?

Ms. Garner

- Wants to learn more about this issue
- Remembers the scare from the oil refinery
- Rumor about people that living in the mobile home park getting sick

Board Member DeLeon

- Mentioned IQair and their proposal included education of community and students
- Illnesses caused by poor air, one was asthma
- Educating community on how to advocate for air quality

-----INDOOR AIR QUALITY-----

Director of Facilities, Mr. Law, spoke about 3 current initiatives for bettering indoor air quality

Initiative 1

- HVAC systems older then 14 years or older have been replaced
- Due to a few large purchases, a large percentage of PUSD’s HVAC systems are now only two to three years old
- New Systems are better for two major reasons- they cool better, and they are much more efficient and that can save the district money over the life of the unit
- Higher rated filters are used MERV-13 and MERV-16

Initiative 2

- Over the past few years PUSD has upgraded the level of filtration in our HVAC units. Starting with MERV-8 and progressing to what we have now; MERV-13 and MERV-16
- Two years ago, was when the first Merv16’s were installed at 6 sites. The initiation of MERV-16 was helped by the POLB grant.
- PUSD has purchased additional air filter systems for inside the classrooms and offices. Orders were tailored class size-square footage
- The additional units are HEPA filtered. They recycle air four to five times an hour and run very quietly.
- Filters are 99.99% capable of filtering Covid virus
- HEPPA filters are equal to MER-17 or MERV-18 levels
- Showed examples of systems, filters and how they work.

Initiative 3

- Increasing airflow and adding fresh air into offices and classrooms
- New HVAC systems cycles the rooms air approximately ten times per hour depending on square footage of the room.

----- Discussion About indoor Air Quality -----

Board Member Gomez

- Why do only six schools have MERV-16 filters?
 - **Mr. Law** – Those six schools were selected as part of a grant awarded to PUSD from The Port of Long Beach. All other sites are using MERV-13 filters.

Board Member Gomez

- The Board would like all schools at the MERV-16 level
 - **Mr. Frutos** – Explained that ASHRAE recommends filter levels of MERV-13. Our systems do not accommodate MERV-16 currently.

Board Member DeLeon

- If we can get MERV-16 for everyone, that should be our goal
- Asked to bring it forward at the next board meeting for discussion and action

Mr. Frutos

- to put things in perspective, upgrading older units would be a waste of money. Now that we have new units, we would look to budget and allocate funds for upgrades to MERV-16

Board Member Gomez

- Please add this to the June meeting agenda

Ms. Flores

- What is the timeline/process that it takes to convert from an MERV-13 to MERV-16?
- Will there be a plan for implementation and reasoning and a schedule?
- When talking about MERV-13 filters why do we talk as if it is not a good filter?
- Glad to hear MERV-13 are good, and we should all work to stop the rumor mill regarding the quality of these filters.

Mr. Cerda

- Are HVAC units with MERV-13 or MERV-16 being placed in bungalow buildings
- Does class size with quantity of students affect the quality of the air
- We should shoot for MERV-16 filters at all sites

Mr. Frutos

- Filtration can change from MERV-13 units to MERV-16 with an upgrade, and if it is supported by the Board. Regulatory and advisory organizations currently recommend MERV-13, especially for areas such as ours, being surrounded by freeways and businesses. One job of this committee is to educate people to close doors, so the filtered air remains in rooms.

Mr. Law

- All HVAC systems were replaced based on age of systems, this includes classrooms, portable classrooms and bungalow classrooms. All units older than 14 years were replaced.

Board Member Gomez

- Teachers need to be educated on systems and best practices in classrooms
 - **Mr. Frutos** – Principals will be educated on how the systems work

Ms. Resendiz

- Possibly educate parents at workshops and/or meeting
 - **Mr. Frutos** – we can work with the PTA & DLAC, use texts to inform and blasts to parents. We will develop materials for Principals. We will bring to the board for discussion at the next meeting.

Ms. Silva

- When will next meeting be?
 - **Mr. Frutos** – not until we understand what the City and AQMD will do. Will inform Board members first if a meeting is needed.

Board Member DeLeon

- We need to plan to explain more, why we're doing, when we're doing and how we're doing it.

Ms. Resendiz

- People want to know why we are spending money the way we are?

Board Member Gomez

- Supports what has been discussed and wants the students to have the best

Board Member DeLeon

- Explained why poor air causes mental issues

NEXT STEPS

- Written notes
- Board Item