



PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN PARAMOUNT SCHOOLS



Environmental Update

Board of Education Meeting

February 11, 2020

Dr. Ruth Perez, Superintendent

Ruben Frutos, Assistant Supt., Business Services

Scott Law, Director, Facilities and Planning



GOALS OF THE PRESENTATION

- Review District actions since the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) identified air quality issues in the City of Paramount.
- District funding grants
- Where to go from here (Next Steps)



BACKGROUND DETAILS

- AQMD air quality assessments and testing at school sites
- District testing – LA County Department of Public Health - Joint testing with LACDPH
- District meetings with staff and Board updates - Gaines and Mokler
- Culver City Unified – School visit - El Marino Elementary School – Filter implementation
- SCAQMD air filter information meeting (Dr. Polidori) - Air filter and particulate research
- Air Filter Implementation program (Gaines - pilot)
 - Equipment modifications (sheet metal work) for new filters
- TAP participation – Site visits and staff meetings
- District Environmental Ad Hoc Board Committee



BACKGROUND DETAILS

In 2013, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) received metallic odor complaints and began conducting an investigation into local sources of emissions, including initiating a local air sampling study. High levels of nickel and hexavalent chromium were found.

In 2016, South Coast AQMD initiated an extensive air monitoring campaign to assess levels of hexavalent chromium in the industrialized sections of the City of Paramount, including monitoring equipment in schools.

In 2017, the AQMD implemented the placement of testing equipment in school district property and rotated the testing equipment to various school sites while reviewing and releasing results of those tests in their web site. This practice has been in place for years and we will maintain the access to our schools for AQMD testing.

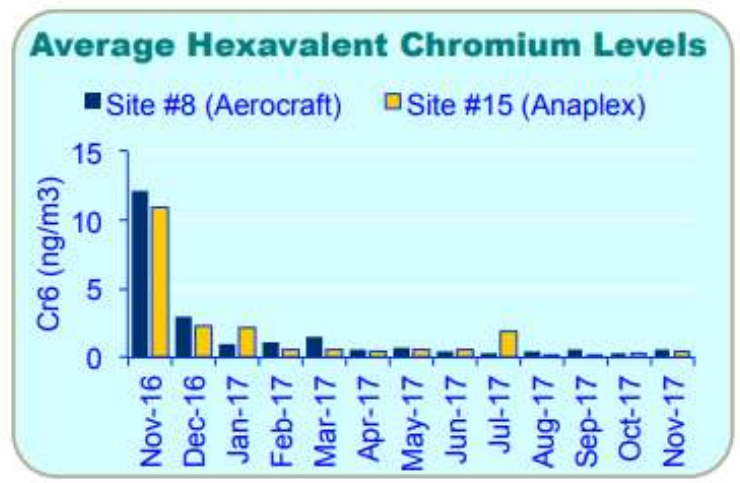


AIR QUALITY TESTING INFORMATION

In December 2017, the SCAQMD released a “*Summary of Efforts in Paramount*” report that included a graph showing a decline in the Hexavalent Chromium levels in the community, and providing further details on their testing and enforcement efforts in the Paramount community. The AQMD utilizes average information to show the monthly levels described in the chart.

In February 2020, the SCAQMD announced that the Risk Reduction Plan for LUBECO was approved.

SCAQMD – Summary of Efforts In Paramount



December 2017



PARAMOUNT USD – DISTRICT ACTIONS

- Paramount USD has embarked in a multi year indoor testing process to examine the indoor air quality in our classrooms.
- Four waves of indoor air testing have been completed, including testing done in partnership with the LA County Department of Public Health.

District testing -

- **August 4-9, 2017** –Lincoln, Zamboni, Jackson, Mokler and Gaines.
- **December 18-19, 2017** - Gaines and Lincoln
- **September 26-27, 2018** – Gaines and Lincoln*
- **August 15-16, 2019** – Gaines and Lincoln*

* - Testing in partnership with the LA County Department of Public Health (LACDPH)



PARAMOUNT USD – DISTRICT ACTIONS (VIDEO)

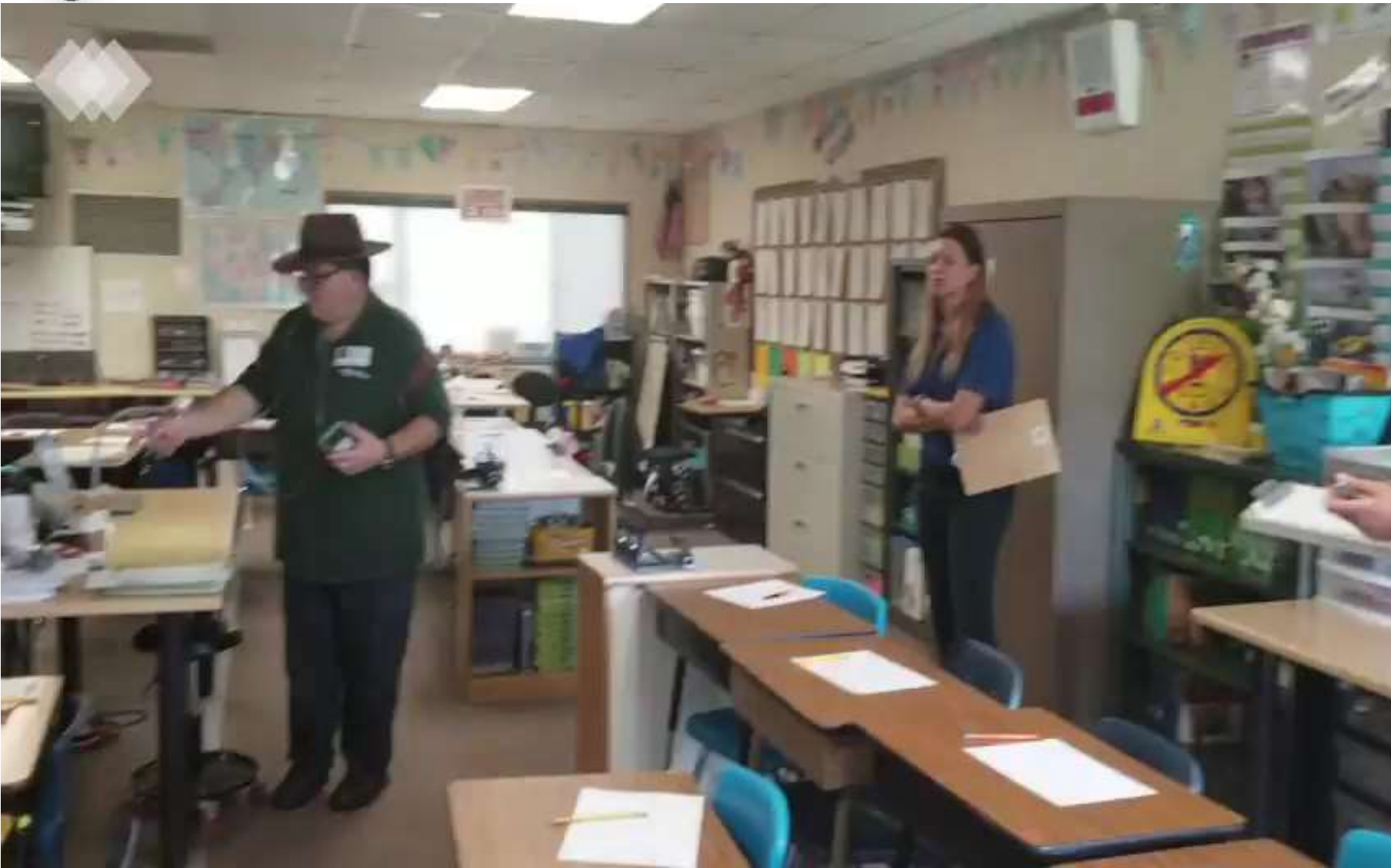
The County Health Department team, composed of consultants and County staff (in blue) are working with the District team consultants (in green), explaining the close working relationship, the agreed upon methods and the expected results.

We also see the locations where testing is done and the County and District groups jointly documenting and working on all the testing processes.

Additionally, they explain the joint testing process, their choice to use a unified set of samples and labs, and most important, they explain that the testing so far has given good results, they call them “negative results”, which they explain means that there are no significant amounts found.



JOINT TESTING – Paramount USD and LA County Dept. Of Public Health





AIR QUALITY TESTING RESULTS

The prior testing reports from the August 2017 tests indicate:

- “Based on the data collected to date, observations and measurements, in terms of potential exposure to Cr(VI), the classrooms are safe to occupy and for continuous use with the air handler in operation during all periods of occupancy”.
- Hexavalent Chromium (Cr(VI)) Testing at various District sites (Aug 2017) - The results of the study indicated the following:
 - *“No airborne Hexavalent Chromium (Cr(VI)) was detected inside any of the classrooms during the days of sampling”.*
- *“The current Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Unit filters MERV 10 are effective in that there was no measurable Cr(VI) inside the room even though there were levels measured outside at two locations”.*



PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

PUSD DISTRICT ACTIONS

- Paramount USD also unveiled a web site for environmental information: <http://bit.ly/PUSDenvironment>



[District Environmental Quality And Health Resources](#) » [District Air Quality Resources](#)

District Air Quality Resources



The Paramount Unified School District continues to work on an ongoing basis with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the County Public Health Department and other environmental regulatory and enforcement agencies to provide our district information regarding the concerns and findings relating to Hexavalent Chromium levels in the community. The SCAQMD is the regulatory agency in charge of the air quality in the area, as well as the agency providing information regarding the current investigation. The SCAQMD implemented the placement of testing equipment in school district property, rotating the testing equipment to various school sites and regularly reviewing and releasing results of those tests in their web site, which also includes information about their air monitoring activities in the City of Paramount, their meetings and processes: <http://www.aqcmd.org/home/regulations/compliance/air-monitoring-activities>

UPDATE - SCAQMD announces a Summary of Efforts report: The SCAQMD has undertaken unprecedented, extensive efforts to identify and reduce sources of hexavalent chromium in the City of Paramount. This [Summary of Efforts in Paramount](#) (PDF included below), summarizes the significant progress made and provides highlights of monitoring, enforcement, rule development, public outreach, and coordination efforts.

Additionally, the Paramount Environmental Portal is provided by the City of Paramount, offering facts and information to residents and businesses about our City's environment. The site focuses on the areas of air, water, and soil: <https://paramountenvironment.org/>



PUSD DISTRICT ACTIONS

An informational meeting was held to present the testing results for the Gaines and Lincoln tests on April 25, 2019 at Jackson Middle School.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
INDOOR AIR QUALITY
SURVEY RESULTS MEETING



Join us for a presentation of the indoor air quality testing conducted at Lincoln and Gaines Elementary Schools. Staff from the Paramount Unified School District, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and consultants will present the results of the indoor air quality survey and answer questions.

Date/Time: **Thursday, April 25, 2019** at 7:00 pm

Meeting Location:
Jackson Middle School
7220 Jackson St,
Paramount, CA



PARAMOUNT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

PARAMOUNT USD – DISTRICT ACTIONS HVAC Filter and Retrofit Project

- Questions arose at a Board meeting on the effectiveness of Merv 16 vs. Merv 10 for Chromium VI.
- **December 2018** - District met with Dr. Polidori from the SCAQMD, who provided information on his research on Merv 16 air filtration and particulates (the study deals with classroom filtration of a variety of particles such as Butane, Benzene and Ethanol). The study link is: <https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/aqmdpilotstudyfinalreport.pdf?sfvrsn=0>
- Gaines Project Update
 - Retrofit completed on **March 2019**
 - Sheet metal work finished - \$19,100
 - Supply and install of Merv 16 filters - \$7,000
 - Duct work and energy management monitor - \$3,400





PARAMOUNT USD – CURRENT DISTRICT ACTIONS

- **August 2019** - *Testing at Lincoln and Gaines:* The consultants have completed the draft report for the air quality testing at Lincoln and Gaines, with Lincoln fitted with Merv 10 and Gaines with Merv 16, in order to review differences and improved filtration. A copy has been provided to the County Health Department for their review and feedback. Once the report is finalized, it will be presented by District staff to the Board for approval and County staff will present to the County Board of Supervisors.
- The results are positive overall with detection levels below the specified standards and in some cases, no detection. Within the results, the following quote describes the safety for occupancy, which has been one of the focus areas in the various studies:

According to the February 2020 draft testing report:

- *“Based on the data collected to date, observations and measurements, the Cr(VI) in indoor air does not pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of people spending time in school classrooms.”*



Port of Long Beach Grant Update

The Paramount Unified School district received the signed contracts for the grant from the Port of Long Beach. The grant is for **\$352,475**. The grant money is to be used at 6 Paramount schools to purchase and install high performance filter upgrades and replacements.

Paramount USD worked with IQ Air for the submission of the grant documentation and the district intends to continue working with IQ Air for the procurement of air filtration grant funding and air filters. The schools and amounts are listed below:

SCHOOL	GRANT AWARD
Gaines Elementary School	\$22,431.00
Jackson Middle School	\$65,096.00
Keppel Elementary School	\$59,166.00
Los Cerritos Elementary School	\$70,847.00
Tanner Elementary School	\$62,645.00
Zamboni Middle School	\$72,290.00



NEXT STEPS – FILTER IMPLEMENTATION IN SCHOOLS

The next steps are to finalize the contracting process so that the work can begin at the remaining 5 sites, and procure the Merv 16 filters through a vendor such as IQ Air. During the life of the grant, regular progress reports will be submitted quarterly indicating progress towards the project completion. The disbursement of grant funds will occur upon completion of the projects, receipt and approval of a disbursement requests, with supporting documentation.

Contract Information – Current District Contract Process

The District follows California Bid laws by procuring proposals for capitals projects such as HVAC retrofits and installations. The District's last bid was in 2018 for the installation, repair and maintenance of district HVAC units.



NEXT STEPS – ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

January 2020 -Staff is seeking grant opportunities through CalEPA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) called supplemental environmental projects, where the district applies for funding for air quality projects that can provide funds for air quality equipment, installation and materials. The District is working on a draft application and indicated interest to IQ Air to participate in the grant funding process with the District.

At the meeting with IQ Air on **January 27, 2020**:

IQ Air indicated that they applied for new District funds in **November 2019** through a grant process. The District was unaware of the application and IQ Air indicated that the District must be involved as the recipient agency and approve the grant as District information. The District requested copies of the grant information so staff can present the application to the Board of Education for approval and to direct staff to work with IQ Air on all necessary documents for those grants.



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