

From: DOL.Safety <DOL.Safety@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 7:37 AM
To: Kent Metzger <kametzger@dps61.org>
Subject: RE: Illinois OSHA Complaint #2051352

Mr. Metzger,
Our Enforcement Manager, Joe Thomas, would welcome a phone call to discuss the safe manner of item retrieval. Below is his contact information:

Joe Thomas
217-299-3557
Joseph.S.Thomas@illinois.gov

Thank You,

IL OSHA

From: Kent Metzger <kametzger@dps61.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 11:50 AM
To: DOL.Safety <DOL.Safety@Illinois.gov>
Cc: Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>; Michael Curry <mcurry@dps61.org>; Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>; Jay Marino <JJMarino@dps61.org>; Larry Gray <ldgray@dps61.org>; Deanne Hillman <DHillman@dps61.org>
Subject: [External] Re: Illinois OSHA Complaint #2051352

Good morning DOL,
We are seeking your response to our latest transmittal of our actions to address the complaint letter.

DPS 61 wishes to proceed with an appropriate plan to allow staff, or others, enter the buildings to retrieve certain items in a safe manner. We wish to correspond with an individual(s) with DOL that can facilitate our planning and process.

Thanks,
Kent Metzger
Director of Buildings & Grounds

From: Melissa Bradford
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 4:37 PM
To: DOL.Safety@illinois.gov
Cc: Kent Metzger <kametzger@dps61.org>; Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>; Michael Curry <mcurry@dps61.org>; Jay Marino <JJMarino@dps61.org>; Larry Gray <ldgray@dps61.org>; Deanne Hillman <dhillman@dps61.org>; Valdimir Talley <vtalley@dps61.org>
Subject: SIGNED Certificate of Posting Complaint# 2051352 07.13.23

Good evening,
Per the OSHA Complaint# 2051352, attached is the letter and the SIGNED Certificate of Posting from Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent of Decatur Public Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bradford
Executive Administrative Assistant to the:
Board of Education and Superintendent
Office: 217 362-3011

District Internal Extension: 013011

Fax: 217 424-3009

mbradford@dps61.org



Pursuant to Illinois' public records law, this written communication may constitute a public record which is available to the public and media upon request. Please be advised that this email communication may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Rochelle Clark

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 4:23 PM

To: DLT <DLT@dps61.org>

Subject: Fw: OSHA

This just went out to Board Members. If you have questions, please call me.

Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent

Decatur Public Schools #61

217-362-3010

When you know better, you must do better.

From: Rochelle Clark

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 4:22 PM

To: DPS61 Board of Education <BOE@dps61.org>

Cc: Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>

Subject: OSHA

Board Members,

Decatur Public Schools received a notice on Thursday, July 13, 2023, from the Illinois Department of Labor that an OSHA complaint had been filed on Thursday, July 6, 2023, regarding Dennis Lab Schools. The OSHA complaint alleges that the building is closed and yet employees are present coming in and out of the building, there is mold and asbestos present in the Dennis facilities. As a result of this complaint, DPS is prohibiting any further access to the Dennis Lab School buildings and will be closing off all access points to the buildings. All contents that have yet to be moved will remain in the facilities, as access is now prohibited.

We have contacted all union leadership and they have received a copy of this notice. Kent Metzger has responded to the complaint, and I have completed the document regarding notification as well. In addition, a press release is being sent so everyone will understand why we are shutting down all activities.

Board Members, please do not "reply to all" to this email.

Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent

Decatur Public Schools #61

217-362-3010

When you know better, you must do better.

From: Kent Metzger

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 3:44 PM

To: DOL.Safety <DOL.Safety@Illinois.gov>

Cc: Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>; Michael Curry <mcurry@dps61.org>; Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>; Jay Marino <JJMarino@dps61.org>; Larry Gray <ldgray@dps61.org>; Deanne Hillman <DHillman@dps61.org>

Subject: Illinois OSHA Complaint #2051352

Importance: High

Dear Sirs,

In response to your July 10, 2023 letter referring to Illinois OSHA Complaint #2051352, Decatur Public Schools (DPS) offers the following:

The complaint references a “notice of alleged hazard(s)” at our workplace located at 520 W. Wood Street, Decatur, IL 62523. DPS acknowledges that the building has been closed due to concerns about the structural stability of the upper masonry exterior of the building. DPS acknowledges that there are asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) present within the building at this location. As required by the Asbestos Hazard and Emergency Response Act (AHERA) and subsequent State of Illinois regulations, DPS has generated and maintained an Asbestos Management Plan for this building. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no disturbance (intentional or unintentional) of ACBM’s in conjunction with the current concerns with structural stability of the masonry exterior. DPS acknowledges that mold (aka fungal growth or contamination) is present within the building as mold (aka fungal growth or contamination) is present in all buildings. Concerns/complaints about mold (aka fungal growth or contamination) prior to the structural instability concerns were investigated. Previous investigations revealed that indoor concentrations were found to be lower than outdoor concentrations. Since those investigations, DPS has continued to maintain interior heating/cooling systems, has maintained building cleanliness and has addressed infiltration of moisture to reduce the potential for higher than desirable indoor concentrations. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no change in conditions which may have elevated indoor concentrations in conjunction with the current concerns with structural stability of the masonry exterior.

The specific nature of the alleged hazard(s) references “Dennis Lab/The main stairs are pulling away from the wall and mold [is] present throughout the building”.

DPS does not acknowledge that main stairs are pulling away from the wall, as this condition has not been found to exist at 520 W. Wood Street (as referenced in the complaint letter), Decatur, IL 62523. Another DPS building, the Dennis Lab School is located at 1499 West Main (no referenced in the complaint letter), Decatur, IL 62522 has been found to have structural concerns associated with the main stairs. Access to this area has been restricted to all personnel since the condition was investigated by structural engineers and reported to DPS Administration. DPS acknowledges that mold (aka fungal growth or contamination) is present within the building as mold (aka fungal growth or contamination) is present in all buildings. No recent concerns/complaints about mold (aka fungal growth or contamination) have been substantiated, noted or extensively investigated. DPS has continued to maintain interior conditioning systems, has maintained building cleanliness and has addressed infiltration of moisture to reduce the potential for higher than desirable indoor concentrations. To the best of our knowledge, there has been no change in conditions which may have elevated indoor concentrations in conjunction with the current concerns with structural stability of the main stair.

DPS acknowledges the complaint letter’s reference to Standard 1910.22(d).

Per paragraph 1 on page 2 of the Illinois OSHA Complaint 2051352 letter, DPS has opted to immediately control any perceived hazardous conditions prior to performing any investigations. To control any perceived hazardous conditions, DPS is immediately curtailing access to the buildings located at 520 W. Wood Street, Decatur, IL 62523 and 1499 West Main, Decatur, IL 62522. Curtailing access applies to all DPS personnel. By curtailing access to the building, no one will be exposed to a potential unsafe and unhealthy working conditions.

Copies of the complaint letter have conspicuously been posted on both building locations.

Respectfully,

Kent A. Metzger

Dir. of Buildings and Grounds
Decatur Public Schools #61
Buildings & Grounds Department
400 East Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Office – 217-362-3531
Cell – 217-413-3586

From: Kent Metzger

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 10:17 AM

To: Melissa Bradford <MBradford@dps61.org>; Michael Curry <mcurry@dps61.org>; Floyd Bolt <FBolt@dps61.org>

Cc: Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>; Jay Marino <JJMarino@dps61.org>; David Braun <dbraun@millertracy.com>; Luke Feeney <lfeeney@millertracy.com>; Angela Brown <ABrown@dps61.org>

Subject: RE: Certified Letter from OSHA 07.13.23

I will handle this.

Kent A. Metzger

Dir. of Buildings and Grounds
Decatur Public Schools #61
Buildings & Grounds Department
400 East Cerro Gordo
Decatur, IL 62523
Office – 217-362-3531
Cell – 217-413-3586

From: Melissa Bradford

Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 10:03 AM

To: Kent Metzger <kametzger@dps61.org>; Michael Curry <mcurry@dps61.org>; Floyd Bolt <FBolt@dps61.org>

Cc: Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>; Jay Marino <JJMarino@dps61.org>; David Braun <dbraun@millertracy.com>; Luke Feeney <lfeeney@millertracy.com>; Angela Brown <ABrown@dps61.org>

Subject: Certified Letter from OSHA 07.13.23

Kent, Floyd and Mike,

The Supt's office received the attached today, 07/13/23. Who will handle next steps on behalf of the District?

Please advise

Melissa Bradford
Executive Administrative Assistant to the
Board of Education and Superintendent
Office: 217 362-3011
District Internal Extension: 013011
Fax: 217 424-3009
mbradford@dps61.org