



# City of Cambridge

62

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 24, 1991

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL

WHEREAS: Air and environmental quality at the John M. Tobin School have been at issue. The recent study of the air quality by Environmental Health Engineering, Inc. notes problems such as an inadequate ventilation system and the presence of unknown volatile organic gases; and

WHEREAS: Concerned parents, the Parent-Teacher-Organization and others have reported their concerns. The Tobin site was listed for investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency as early as 1987 and is still awaiting evaluation; and

WHEREAS: Parents are concerned that, although long term solutions are being explored to correct the ventilation system, and to identify potential hazard sources, that these solutions will not be in place before the opening of school in September; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Manager direct the Superintendent of Schools to bring together all the parties who are working on a solution to ensure that before the opening of school:

1. Possible toxins such as lead paint, etc. are stored in proper areas;
2. The Kiln in the Art Room is adequately vented;
3. Windows are all in working order so that proper ventilation can be made possible;
4. Teachers and school personnel are instructed on remedial measures for better air quality that can be done daily, e.g. opening windows on a regular basis; and,
5. If noise in play areas is a problem for teachers who feel that the sound of children playing distracts their classes when windows are open, to synchronize the times when classes are at recess and when windows are opened; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the City Council at the July 1991 meeting of the Council especially with regard to immediate temporizing measures which will be accomplished prior to the opening of the

school year in September, 1991; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the report to the City Council concerning longer range valiative and corrective measures to provide for the safety and health of the Tobin population.

⑥ To examine the levels of Volatiles, which are presently in a high concentration in the crawl spaces beneath the school.

⑦ To examine the Ground water Flow through the site, and

⑧ To examine the Water Study Report authored by Haley & Aldrich some 5 yrs. ago.

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# City of Cambridge

50.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 24, 1991

COUNCILLOR RUSSELL  
COUNCILLOR CYR

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WHEREAS: Concerned parents, the Parent-Teacher-Organization and others have reported their concerns. The Tobin site was listed for investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency as early as 1987 and is still awaiting evaluation; and

WHEREAS: Parents are concerned that, although long term solutions are being explored to correct the ventilation system, and to identify potential hazard sources, that these solutions will not be in place before the opening of school in September; now therefore be it

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2. The Kiln in the Art Room is adequately vented;
3. Windows are all in working order so that proper ventilation can be made possible;
4. Teachers and school personnel are instructed on remedial measures for better air quality that can be done daily, e.g. opening windows on a regular basis; and,
5. If noise in play areas is a problem for teachers who feel that the sound of children playing distracts their classes when windows are open, to synchronize the times when classes are at recess and when windows are opened; and

6. To examine the levels of volatiles, which are presently in a high concentration in the crawl spaces beneath the school;

7. To examine the ground water flow through the site; and

8. To examine the Water Study Report authored by Haley and Aldrich some five years ago; and be it further

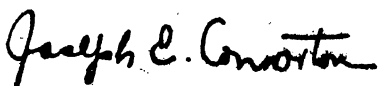
RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report to the City Council at the July 1991 meeting of the Council especially with regard to immediate temporizing measures which will be accomplished prior to the opening of the school year in September, 1991; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the report to the City Council concerning longer range valuatve and corrective measures to provide for the safety and health of the Tobin population.

In City Council June 24, 1991.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy; 

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton  
City Clerk

Order # 50

F-394  
Councillors Russell and Cyr re:  
ventilation systems at the Tobin  
School.

In City Council,

June 24, 1991

ORDER ADOPTED