

Hello, I am Tricia Seduski and I am the mother of a second grader and kindergartner at New Hampshire Estates Elementary School. As a Title I School that has some of the highest need students in the district, our school faces many challenges that are often difficult to address and fix. The poor air quality and conditions of the heating and cooling systems at the school should not be some of them. These are issues that can be directly addressed and easily fixed if we were provided with the funding that we so desperately need. For years, we have been asking for the funding that would allow our students to breathe cleaner air and for years, it has been pushed back on your list of priorities. For years, we have asked for the funds to fix our HVAC systems that are regularly breaking down, necessitating emergency repairs in both hot and cold weather. And for years, we have not been awarded this funding. As a result, students who go to school every day are not guaranteed a healthy learning environment. Teachers go into school every day knowing that their health is at risk and knowing that they are leading students into their classrooms who are breathing unhealthy air due to mold issues. And throughout the year, students deal with classrooms that are either too hot or too cold due to an HVAC system that is too old to function properly – Including today.

While we have received funds in the sum of about \$2.2 million dollars that will hopefully allow us to install ventilation ductwork to alleviate some of the poor indoor air quality, this is not enough. This funding will help with minor changes that might help in the short term, but we need a full overhaul of the building's system. The fact that the building was built in 1954 along with the fact that it is partially built into a hillside which increases the building's moisture exposure and therefore mold exposure, are putting the school's students and teachers at risk.

Earlier this school year, my second grade son was coming home daily complaining of headaches. At the time, I was under the impression that the mold issues had been addressed enough to insure that our children were not at risk of health issues. Weeks after these headaches began, I spoke to Nancy McInerney, our PTA President, and learned that these issues had not been addressed. Knowing his teacher and classmates were all being allowed to work and learn in an unhealthy environment appalled me. But what was most upsetting and concerning, was realizing that his headaches all went away during our winter break when he was not in school and being exposed to those conditions.

During my parent teacher conference, I learned the struggles that his teacher has been dealing with for years. She told me how she is spending her own money to buy air filters to use for the temporary air purifiers that have been put into her classroom and that have become a permanent fixture in the absence of a permanent solution that has not been provided. Why is this acceptable?

The classrooms at greatest risk currently house the second grade students. I have a kindergartener who suffers from asthma and am terrified that he will be sitting in the same classroom as his older brother in a couple of years, breathing air that will make him come

home sick as well. How can you hear the testimony of these conditions each year and fail to address them? Your students deserve better and you need to do better for them. Please do not ignore us for another year. Thank you.