

Subject: Re: Decatur Lab Schools
From: reed@decaturvote.com
Date: 6/16/23, 10:32
To: Phillip Holthaus <pholthaus@bfwengineers.com>

Phillip,

I will continue inquiring with them.

I'd like to let you know that on May 31st, Denise Swarhout (DPS Communications Officer) wrote to WCIA's Scarlett O'Hara "We requested the analysis from a structural engineer this spring, but yesterday was the first availability on his schedule to come out and do the analysis."

Email records suggest DPS's claim was not entirely accurate. I will be publishing the above quote and surrounding context, per the records I have available.

Since they initially blamed the scheduling delay on you, I wanted you to have a chance to respond.

I understand though.

Thank you.

On 6/16/23 10:17 AM, Phillip Holthaus <pholthaus@bfwengineers.com> wrote:

Reed,

Please feel free to reach out to Decatur Public Schools and their communications staff with any question you might have.

Thanks,

Phillip Holthaus, PE, SE
Structural Engineer / Project Manager
Bacon Farmer Workman Engineering & Testing, Inc.

-----Original Message-----

From: Reed Sutman <reed@decaturvote.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 1:46 PM
To: Phillip Holthaus <pholthaus@bfwengineers.com>
Cc: Anna Marie Ignacio <amignacio@bfwengineers.com>; Heath Pederson <hpederson@bfwengineers.com>
Subject: Decatur Lab Schools

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Hi Phillip,

I'm Reed Sutman, a journalist for Decatur Vote, and I have a few questions about the Dennis Lab Schools, which you recently inspected. If you'd prefer to talk by phone, my number is 217-413-9202, and you should expect the call to be recorded.

My questions:

1. From your analysis, do you believe the buildings can be repaired?
2. Do you believe the staff and students were in danger for the months leading up to the

closure?

3. You sent a \$19,000 proposal to Kent Metzger on March 23rd, but analysis wasn't completed until May 30th. Can you explain the delay?

Thanks,
Reed Sutman

P.S. All communications with me are on-the-record and may be published.

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Reed Sutman
DecaturVote.com
217-413-9202