

Subject: Re: My remaining questions
From: Reed Sutman <reed@decaturnvote.com>
Date: 7/13/23, 15:58
To: Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>
CC: Denise Swarthout <DSwarthout@dps61.org>

Thank you.

On 7/13/23 15:57, Rochelle Clark wrote:

Yes, it is a lot. I will do my best.

*Dr. Rochelle Clark, Superintendent
Decatur Public Schools #61
217-362-3010*

When you know better, you must do better.

From: Reed Sutman <reed@decaturnvote.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2023 1:54 PM
To: Rochelle Clark <rclark@dps61.org>
Subject: My remaining questions

Dr. Clark,

Thank you for your time Tuesday. You said to send you an email with follow up questions. I have a lot of questions, and understand if you need some time to address all of them. I would appreciate an ETA and would be happy to receive answers in chunks if that's easier than all at once.

The questions are posted online at
<https://www.decaturnvote.com/story/dennis-schools-structural-issues/questions-for-dr-clark/>

And here they are:

Scheduling inspections / Timeline

1. What was the process for acquiring a proposal from BFW? Was there a public bidding procedure? When did you make the request for a bid?
2. What was the process for acquiring a proposal from Klingner? Was there a public bidding procedure? When did you make the request for a bid?
3. The District timeline says inspection was attempted to be schedule on March 22nd. Email records show a contract proposal on March 23rd and no communications prior. When and how were communications conducted prior

- to March 23rd, in an effort to secure a March 22nd inspection?
4. The District timeline says inspection was attempted to be scheduled on May 17th. Email records show that Holthaus offered possible inspection that week & also the following week. Metzger replied on May 15th asking for a May 30/31 inspection. Why did the District claim May 17th was attempted & can any proof be provided to support that claim?
 5. On May 8th, Holthaus offered a May 9th inspection. Why wasn't May 9th accepted?
 6. On April 11th, Metzger suggested to Holthaus an inspection for April 19th. Holthaus replied on April 27th asking for other dates. Were there communications with BFW between April 11th & April 27th? Calls, Texts, etc
 7. On April 27th, Metzger suggests "an afternoon next week". The next email from Holthaus was May 8th, suggesting May 9th. Were there any other communications (calls/texts) between April 27th & May 8th?
 8. Why didn't anyone take action after the public comment on August 23rd 2022 about the stairs at Dennis separating from the building?
 9. On May 24th, Angela Brown emailed Holthaus "You will receive a PO once I get the requisition submitted to our purchasing department." Was this the PO for the March 23rd contract? Why did it take over two full months to get a PO? Can you provide the PO & contract?
 10. The District webpage says February 7th was the first known concern. Why didn't the District disclose concerns to the public sooner than May 31st? And who made the decision NOT to disclose prior to the inspection?
 11. On May 26th, Kent Metzger wrote to BFW Engineering's Phillip Holthaus "My maintenance foreman and mason are knowledgeable about some structural issues so they can meet too." Who are his maintenance foreman & mason, and how long have they been "knowledgeable about some structural issues"?
 12. How was DPS able to get a second opinion (from Klingner) so quickly, if the first opinion (from BFW) took 3 and a half months to secure?
 13. Were other firms sought for the initial inspection?
 14. Why didn't Kent Metzger get building drawings from BLDD architects for Phillip Holthaus, who asked for these drawings on March 23rd? (A May 15th email shows that Holthaus acquired the drawings himself)
 15. Denise Swarhout told Scarlett O'Hara on May 31st "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." Why did she place sole blame for the scheduling on BFW, who had multiple cases of prior availability not acted upon by the District?
 16. The District page released the preliminary report for Kaleidoscope (with the over-head view), but not for Mosaic. Is a similar Mosaic prelim report available?
 17. What was the cost of the Klingner inspection & can you provide documentation? (Contract + purchase order)

HLS & Other building issues

1. 10-year HLS surveys were due by December for both French & Dennis.

When were those scheduled for?

2. What other facilities were due for a 10-year HLS survey this year?
3. Al Scheider said "As far as other structural things, Kent [Metzger] had, twice this year, has gone through a whole list of all the schools and what they were doing." - Can you provide this list?
4. The 2013 HLS survey shows several cases of water damage to the Dennis building. Were these issues addressed since 2013? If yes, can you provide documentation?
5. In August 2022, a student made public comment about gas leaks being unsafe at the dennis building. Are there gas leaks at Dennis/Mosaic? Have they been inspected / fixed?
6. The Klingner reports show that several previous repairs had been completed. When were those completed? Who completed them? Why did those repairs not prompt further inspection? Can you provide documentation related to those repairs? (My last FOIA request details those past repairs)
7. I heard from a student that Stephen Decatur has water leaks in the ceiling and at windows. What do you know about that? Is it being addressed?
8. What policy exists to ensure routine maintenance and inspection of buildings, such as tuckpointing, checking for rust, and sealing cracks with flexible sealant or paint? If no such policy exists, what plans, if any, are there to develop one?

Transparency

1. Mike Curry forwarded an email from mcurryedu@gmail.com to mcurry@dps61.org containing an attachment "KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C..pdf" on June 2 at 11:51 am w/ subject KLINGNER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Why was Curry using a gmail & was any other district business conducted through that gmail or another personal account?
2. June 2, 9:32am, Curry sent subject 'PLEASE Print' to Sherry McIlravy <smcilravy@kwsed.org>, with attachment "20230531 [Kaleidoscope & Mosaic School Structural Evaluations SFA[70].pdf", and no body. What is Curry's connection with Sherry McIlravy & why did he have her print, instead of doing so himself at the Keil building?
3. There was a May 31st zoom meeting with Holthaus, and emails suggest BLDD was part of that call too. What was the purpose of that call? Can you provide documentation about and recording of the meeting?
4. Why didn't the district announce the June 19th staff meeting, such that press could attend?
5. Folks on facebook have criticized the District for subjecting children and staff to unsafe conditions for the time leading up to the May 30th inspection. Many folks seem upset that they weren't even aware until after the schools had been closed down. What will the district do in the future to ensure prompt and proactive transparency? Are there any policy proposals being discussed to ensure structural concerns like these will be brought to the public sooner in the future?
6. Do you believe the district should have notified staff and families prior to BFW's inspection on May 30th? Why / Why not?

7. Why wasn't a "community forum" scheduled prior to presenting a recommendation to the board, like the district timeline promised?
8. Dr. Jay Marino and Deanne Hillman were panelists for the June 19th staff meeting. What is their role in this whole process?

Garfield Concerns

1. Why was Garfield denied a playground when requested in the past by the Alt Ed program?
2. What is the security plan to ensure that Garfield & Stephen Decatur students don't intermix?
3. Krista Hudson expressed concern about only having 11 classrooms. Why doesn't GLA have 13 classrooms & what is being done to address this concern?
4. Krista Hudson expressed concern about only having 1 hour of gym time. What, if anything, is being done to address this concern?
5. What is being done to get a new principal for Garfield?
6. I got a tip that boxes and tape for moving Garfield to SDMS are being taken out of the Garfield building/supplies budget. I was told this came from someone named Brad at the "warehouse" (someone with Buildings and Grounds?). Can you confirm if this is true/false and provide any further details?

Dennis Concerns

1. What is being done to get a 2nd assistant principal for Dennis?
2. Since Dennis will be on one campus, is the District no longer intending to get a 2nd head principal?

Questions from/about the June 19th Meeting

1. Deborah Sonder asked "What about art and music?" ... are these programs remaining unchanged?
2. Keith Creighton asked "If we have questions that occur later, what is the best way to submit or communicate those?"
3. Allison Brikoetter said "With zero math and limited science teachers at sdms" ... Are there "zero math" teachers at SDMS? And if yes, what's the plan to address the shortage?
4. Why weren't everybody's questions displayed to the entire chat?
5. Who was the "Anonymous Attendee"?
6. Keith Creighton asked "What will be communicated to parents and when? Do we hold this information or share?" ... What was the answer to this question?
7. Anonymous attendee asked "Will Dennis teachers be teaching just Dennis kids? Or are you going to use us to fill empty vacancies at sdms to knock down the number of teacher vacancies in the district to make numbers look better" ... Was there any intention to use Dennis teachers to fill SDMS vacancies? Is there any intent to use Garfield teachers to fill SDMS Vacancies?

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