



COMMUNITY DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL 3

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RESOLUTION REGARDING INSPECTION AND REPLACEMENT OF PCB BALLASTS AND CONTAMINATED LIGHT FIXTURES AND CAULK

**Approved by Unanimous Vote of Members Present (7-0)
at the November 9, 2011 CEC3 Calendar Meeting**

WHEREAS, in schools across New York City (NYC), old fluorescent lighting ballasts are leaking or have leaked poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), highly toxic man-made compounds that damage the nervous, immune, and endocrine systems and cause cancer;

WHEREAS, these PCB leaking and contaminated light fixtures pose a serious health risk to children attending and the school employees working in schools with such lights;

WHEREAS, the City of New York has proposed a voluntary plan to replace the lights in question over ten years;

WHEREAS, ten years is an unacceptably lax time frame for replacing the PCB contaminated light fixtures.

WHEREAS, the City, the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority have charged custodial engineers in each school with visual inspection of light fixtures for evidence of PCB leaks;

WHEREAS, visual inspections are inadequate when inspecting for PCB leaking and contamination because, based on the evidence available, the substantial majority of PCB leaks are concealed within metal trays and therefore requires a thorough physical examination;

WHEREAS, caulk containing PCBs is also a widespread problem throughout NYC schools and must also be remediated with all due speed; therefore be it

RESOLVED THAT:

1. The City, the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority must immediately conduct thorough physical examinations of the light fixtures at all schools that have fixtures potentially contaminated by PCBs.
2. The City, the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority must immediately disclose in writing, the written protocol for inspection and detection of PCB's in light fixtures; as well as a detailed description of any training that custodial engineers receive in order to conduct adequate and thorough inspections of light fixtures
3. The Department of Education must immediately disclose to the public the name and location of each school that is identified as having PCB contaminated lights.

4. The City, the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority must replace within two years of the passage of this resolution all light fixtures contaminated by PCBs, as well as replace all fixtures that could potentially become contaminated with PCBs due to a future failure of PCB light ballasts.
5. The City, the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority must immediately conduct air tests in all NYC school likely to have caulk containing PCBs and release the results of the test to the public.
6. Upon completion of the PCB light remediation, the City, the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority must take immediate steps to remediate the caulk that is releasing PCBs.