

ANNA SCIACCA
Superintendent of Schools

July 21, 2021

Dear Members of the Garfield Community:

The Garfield District recently engaged in a project to renovate the rubber gym floor at Garfield High School. This rubber floor was originally installed in the “New Gym” sometime during the 1980’s and was chosen at that time as an alternative to the traditional wood floors that are more typically found in school gymnasiums.

The District contracted with Classic Sports Floors to resurface the rubber flooring in that gym. While the floor was in good condition, the painted lines and colors were faded, and some areas of the flooring were worn. Classic Sports advised the district that , prior to beginning any work on that floor, environmental testing was necessary to assure that the mercury levels were at a normal level . They informed us that there was a history of finding higher mercury levels in hard rubber floors installed in schools from 1960-1990 .

The District had this testing performed on March 31, 2021 through AHERA consultants to specifically test for mercury and asbestos. The consultants collected three samples from various areas of the gym. The results of this testing revealed that asbestos was not found but mercury levels in the new gym were above the normal limits. The District immediately began to acquire quotes on the cost to completely remove, remediate, and replace the current flooring as well as the bleachers in the gym. At a special meeting of the Board of Education held on July 12, 2021, the Board unanimously approved the purchase.

The new gym floor will be installed, and the situation completely remediated prior to the start of the school year in September. It is anticipated that the new bleachers will be installed by mid-September.

Results of the environmental tests referenced in this letter have been posted on the district website.

The Health and Safety of our students and staff remain a priority for the Garfield School District.

Kind Regards,

Anna Sciacca

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We Do Not discriminate as to Age, Race, Creed, National Origin, Gender, Sexual Orientation, or
Disability