

Recently, two teachers were transferred; Ms. Kirsten Bowman and Ms. Judy White have been transferred from Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School but continue to be employed by CCSD. The decision to transfer both teachers was to address concerns raised by both teachers regarding issues specific to Whitesides and ensure their well-being as valued employees.

The district cannot comment further on these personnel matters. The limited information is not intended to disenfranchise community members but rather to protect the privacy of our employees.

The district strongly refutes the assertion there is a mold problem at Whitesides. Since early 2023, there have been numerous inspections and tests for mold by CCSD staff and two environmental services companies, including air samples, biotope samples, and video inspections inside HVAC ductwork. There have been isolated occurrences of mold levels higher than ambient among the thousands of samples taken, and the district has always taken positive action in those affected areas. Please refer to the attached document describing the action taken and best practices suggested following a thorough cleaning of ductwork throughout the building in late 2023.

The district has a formal process to support families of students with health concerns when such prevents students from attending school. The process is intended to support student health needs and allow for collaborative planning between medical and educational professionals. The process meets legal requirements and is supported by policy IHBF, [found here](#). Additionally, outside of the health-related process, there are established and formal processes for the transfer of students to schools within CCSD. Policy JFABC can be [found here](#).

Plans are in place to replace the DOAs by the end of the **calendar year**, following the design and construction of the units. It should also be noted that the current systems at Whitesides are operating within the designed guidelines in accordance with the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE).

We disagree with the phrase "nothing more will be done." As referenced above, the investigation, monitoring, repair, and remediation process that has taken place since January 2023 has been extensive, and as stated above, we have staff ready to respond should the current system not operate properly.

We also believe the following context is important to this story. Ventilation rates for schools and offices are defined by various codes and standards. The most widely accepted standard is the ASHRAE Standard 62.1. It does not provide a limit value for CO2 but rather sets the standard for the volume of outside airflow in cubic feet per minute. When outdoor air is supplied through the HVAC system at a level within the standard, indoor CO2 levels are a function of the outdoor CO2 levels at any given time. Indoor CO2 levels should be considered in relation to the extent to which indoor levels are above outdoor CO2 levels, which typically, at Whitesides, is around 550 ppm outdoors.

District-wide safety measures exist regarding doors and windows; [Policy EBCB is linked here](#). At the most recent parent advisory group meeting, the members collaboratively decided to discontinue the opening of doors since a third-party mechanical engineering consultant indicated that the opening of interior doors did not impact CO2 levels. Additionally, the educators on the call during the meeting said the learning environment was negatively impacted when the classroom doors were open.”