

Bethpage School Superintendent Terrence Clark Statement June 10, 2018

The Bethpage School District has been working on behalf of the entire community to study the potential impact of the Grumman-Navy plume on indoor air quality, community groundwater and now the extent of radon. Working with the Bethpage Water District, we have become the lead agency trying to determine the scope of the issues we all face. We have conducted dozens of sampling tests in our five schools over the past nine years. When sampling results have raised potential issues, we have proceeded to the next level of testing to further assess the issue. Environmental sampling and testing are now routine for us. We have spent over \$250,000 on testing and remediation district wide. We post all of our findings on our website and in our annual budget presentations we discuss the budget code for ongoing environmental testing. We would welcome other large scale property owners in the community- private or government- to conduct similar assessments and share their information as openly as we have so broader conclusions can be drawn.

We have strictly adhered to all EPA and DEC guidelines utilizing the services of an independent environmental consultant (J.C. Broderick & Associates). The Bethpage Board of Education are the ones who authorized the drilling and installation of our own wells for groundwater testing after the Bethpage Water District detected radium in wells at one of their stations two years ago. The Board of Education has also authorized ongoing sampling and testing noting that their highest priority has been the safety of students and staff.

Sampling and testing must be conducted over long periods of time to show patterns and consistencies. False/positives have been found in some results. In addition, more precise assessments, as per EPA guidelines, need to be conducted during heating months over an extended period of time. Where we did have a concern based on some inconclusive data at Central Blvd. Elementary School, the Board of Education in public session ordered the installation of a vapor barrier in the crawlspace as a proactive measure during the summer of 2017. Having subsequently resampled the basement area in that school in April 2018 over a school vacation, we are pleased that the levels of radon are trending downward and appear to be well below EPA thresholds. Sampling and testing are ongoing and we will soon receive a written report based on those tests.

We have been in constant contact with the DEC over the past two years. We appreciate all their efforts and concerns, but over the years we also felt the need to have independent analyses done to assure residents that their schools are safe. Monitoring and sampling will continue to be conducted at all of our schools. This is a community issue that we have worked on with the Bethpage Water District for many years and we will continue to act as the sentinel agency on behalf of our residents.