

**GLASSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY**

TO: Mark Silverstein

FROM: Scott Henry

DATE: April 12, 2017

RE: Agenda Item – Resolution Directing the Installation of Carbon Monoxide Detectors in all District Schools and Urging State Legislature and Governor to Enact Laws to Protect Students and Staff

Recommend the board approve the attached resolution directing the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all Glassboro Public School buildings with fossil fuel burning furnaces and urging the legislature and Governor to enact laws to protect students and staff by requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all schools having fossil fuel burning furnaces.

**RESOLUTION OF THE
GLASSBORO BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF
CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

**SPECIAL MEETING
April 12, 2017**

- WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Education (“NJDOE”) takes proactive measures to protect the safety and security of all students and staff members; and
- WHEREAS, The Glassboro Board of Education (“Board of Education”) recognizes that it is obligated and required by law to take measures for the safety of students and District employees; and
- WHEREAS, the Board of Education considers its obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare of the District’s students and employees as paramount; and
- WHEREAS, On April 6, 2017, an evacuation of the Glassboro Intermediate School was ordered due to the presence of higher than normal levels of carbon monoxide resulting from a mechanical malfunction in fuel burning systems; and
- WHEREAS, Several staff and students reported feeling nauseous and lightheaded, were evaluated by first responders, and close to 60 students and staff were taken to the hospital for further evaluation; and
- WHEREAS, According to the American Medical Association, carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in the United States. Gas furnaces and other fuel-burning appliances are common sources of carbon monoxide poisoning; and
- WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas produced when fuel, such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal, is burned. Carbon monoxide can cause harmful health effects by reducing the delivery of oxygen to the body’s organs, such as the heart, brain, and tissues; and
- WHEREAS, The Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that each year more than 400 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, more than 20,000 visit the emergency room, and more than 4,000 are hospitalized due to carbon monoxide poisoning; and

- WHEREAS, The New Jersey State Air Resources Board estimates that every year carbon monoxide accounts for between 30 and 40 avoidable deaths, possibly thousands of avoidable illnesses, and between 175 and 700 avoidable emergency room and hospital visits.; and
- WHEREAS, On December 3, 2012, the Finch Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia, was evacuated after firefighters discovered a carbon monoxide leak from the school's furnace. Firefighters found people sickened and, in total, 43 students and 10 adults were taken to the local hospital, prompting some states to act; and
- WHEREAS, Only four states – California, Connecticut, Maine, and Maryland require carbon monoxide detectors in school buildings; and
- WHEREAS, 27 states and the District of Columbia require carbon monoxide detectors in private dwellings; and
- WHEREAS, New Jersey Statutes (52:27D-133.3 to 133.5, 55:13B-6.1, and 55:13A-7.17) requires carbon monoxide detectors in single family dwellings, hotels, and boarding houses; and
- WHEREAS, The presence of carbon monoxide detectors in the Glassboro Intermediate School would have prevented undue delays in the evacuation of student and staff, prevented exposure, and ensured the safety of all our students and staff members; and
- WHEREAS, The chief function of the State Legislature is to enact laws, and
- WHEREAS, The Glassboro Board of Education believes carbon monoxide devices provide a vital, highly effective, and low-cost protection against carbon monoxide poisoning and these devices should be made available to every school in New Jersey to help prevent students and staff from being exposed to the effects of carbon monoxide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) That the Glassboro Board of Education directs the installation of carbon monoxide devices in all school buildings having fossil fuel burning furnaces located inside the building; and,
- (2) That the Glassboro Board of Education urge the state Legislature and Governor to amend or initiate laws to protect students and staff by requiring carbon monoxide detectors be installed in all schools having fossil fuel burning furnaces; and,

- (3) That the Glassboro Board of Education directs the superintendent to work collaboratively with the Glassboro Fire Marshal to propose for adoption appropriate standards for the installation of carbon monoxide devices in school buildings; and,
- (4) That a Certified Copy of this Resolution be submitted to our State Legislators the New Jersey School Boards Association, Glassboro Fire Marshal, Mayor and Boro Counsel, Boro Manager, the board secretaries of each school district in the county, the Gloucester County Executive County Superintendent, the Commissioner of Education, and the Office of the Governor.

Adopted at a special meeting
Of the Glassboro Board of
Education on April 12, 2017.

Scott Henry
Business Administrator/Board Secretary