



For Immediate Release
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VCSC Reacts to Health Department Visit

Terre Haute, Ind. - The Vigo County School Corporation is releasing information following an air quality inspection from the Indiana Department of Health Environmental Public Health Division.

According to representatives from the Health Department, concerns were raised about the air quality within a specific area at Terre Haute South High School. At the time of the visit, the entire state was experiencing extremely high temperatures and poor air quality. Due to the high temperatures, VCSC maintenance teams were already monitoring each building and working with outside HVAC companies to balance indoor air quality. VCSC fully cooperated with the Health Department to complete a check of the school, along with conducting its own inspection and follow-up.

“Once the concern was brought to our attention we began an internal review, this was done before receiving the state’s final report,” Superintendent Dr. Chris Himsel explains. “Our results came back that a damper was not working properly in one wing of the school. Regardless of the state’s report, we needed to make that repair. The state’s findings were consistent with our team’s report, so the matter was resolved before it was an issue.”

The state of Indiana requires a report be published when inspections like these occur. Himsel explains that each school is routinely checked through proactive maintenance inspections. The specific test is performed annually. With the high temperatures and poor air quality during last week’s heat wave, crews were already working to combat any issues that occurred throughout the 30 VCSC buildings.

As local weather teams predict another heatwave coming to the Wabash Valley following the Labor Day holiday, Himsel says the VCSC Operations and Maintenance departments are already preparing. He notes that each building does have air conditioning, contrary to misinformation spread via social media.

“We know next week is going to be hot and we’re working to stay ahead of it,” Himsel says. “With extreme temperatures HVAC units have to work overtime, and that is not an isolated issue within the Vigo County School Corporation, that was an issue all over the area. Our crews are doing spot checks in buildings to make sure things are working properly. We believe we are in good shape and prepared for the next wave.”

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