



# Hebron Public Schools



High Expectations, Bright Futures

*Office of the Superintendent*

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*Timothy Van Tassel*  
Superintendent of Schools

*Donald Briere, Ph.D.*  
Director of Educational Services

## \*\*\*\*\* Lead Water Issue Update \*\*\*\*\*

November 16, 2018

Dear Parents, Staff, and Community Residents:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide another update regarding the Hebron Elementary School lead water issue. Since November 2016, the Hebron Public Schools have been working with our Certified Water Operator (Hungerford's Pump Service), the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Chatham Health District to resolve the lead water issue at Hebron Elementary School. We have discontinued the use of drinking water, installed a zinc-orthophosphate system, implemented an approved flushing protocol, and have fulfilled all sampling requirements as required by the administrative agreement with the DPH. With this being said, we have been unsuccessful in preventing lead from leaching into the potable water system.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board of Selectmen formally appointed a building committee with regard to the lead water issue. The function of this committee will be to develop a remediation plan that includes the removal of several sections of the existing water distribution system where the lead solder is located. It is important to note that the Hebron Elementary School Water Remediation Building Committee is comprised of Hebron residents with extensive knowledge of engineering, architecture, construction, and building project design. Further, several of the members of the committee have previous experience working with the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and their office of School Construction Services.

At our first meeting last Friday, the committee requested the services of the Town Engineer in developing bid specifications for the purposes of retaining an engineering firm for project oversight. As required by the DAS for project reimbursement, a competitive bid process for the engineering study must be completed before project planning can occur. Therefore, the committee will be meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> with our town engineer, Mr. Tom Fenton of Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates, to discuss the project and support his role in developing the engineering bid specifications. It is anticipated that a formal bid announcement for engineering services will take place by mid-December, and that a bid award will be made following thirty days after public notice.

Once an engineering firm has been retained, schematic drawings, project specifications, and anticipated costs will be reviewed by the Hebron Board of Selectmen. If the project plan moves forward, the Hebron Elementary School Water Remediation Committee, in partnership with the Town and the Board of Education, will then

retain the necessary contractors to complete the project and apply for partial state reimbursement. Most important to note, the intent of our town leadership is to have this project completed as soon as possible. We recognize the importance of addressing the issue in a timely fashion; however, it is important that we adhere to the processes and expectations of the Town of Hebron and the State offices of the DAS and DPH as we move forward with the project.

Throughout this endeavor, I intend to send periodic updates regarding the progress of the Hebron Elementary School Water Remediation Committee. Meeting agendas, minutes, and other important information will be posted on the Town of Hebron and Hebron Public Schools website. We encourage you to follow this information closely over the next several months.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact Mr. Malcolm Leichter (mleichter@hebronct.com), Chair of the Hebron Elementary School Water Remediation Committee or me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Van Tassel", written over a printed name.

Timothy M. Van Tassel, Superintendent