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August 14, 2019

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants and Employee Organizations:

School is upon us again and with every beginning there are many things still taking place within and around the school grounds. As you may know, last year, the school's roof over the middle school, middle school music room, cafeteria, hallways and part of the commons area began to leak. The reason for such a large area is that those areas were all constructed at the same time. The School Board and staff have been working diligently to mitigate this problem, while following all State Rules and Regulations, by replacing the entire roof of affected areas.

While preparing bid documents for roof replacement, we discovered that the insulation installed with the original roof system contained asbestos. Virtually all insulation up to 1970 contained some form of asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deteriorations over time by releasing air born fibers. The particular asbestos used in the schools poured roof insulation is called Zonolite. More information on Zonolite can be found at <https://www.asbestos.com/products/zonolite-insulation/>.

The school has followed all precautions that is required by the State of ND and the EPA for the abatement of the asbestos insulation. The school has contracted with a certified asbestos abatement contractor and a general roofing contractor to properly replace the roof in its entirety. Roof construction began in June and will continue into the beginning of the school year. There will be workers on the roof and in the rear of the school working to finish the roof replacement, thus there will be minor disruptions for staff and students throughout the day. During the removal, small amounts of this insulation has come to rest on a few of the ceiling tiles within the school. **The School hired Badlands Environmental Consultants to conduct ambient and negative exposure air sampling both inside the school (above tiles and below) and near the work area on top of the roof. All results came back indicating there were no asbestos fibers present within the sampling and air quality was within EPA requirements.** Full reports can be accessed at the school if you would like to review them.

It's the intention of the Bowman County School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and to work. We ask for your understanding of these minor interruptions while the school repairs the roof to ensure a fully functional school building for many years to come. Should you have any concerns or questions regarding this construction feel free to contact Superintendent Heckaman at the Bowman campus in Bowman, phone number is 701-523-3283.