

# Connetquot Teachers Association, Inc.

711-3 Koehler Avenue  
Ronkonkoma, New York 11779  
ctatfelicio@optonline.net

**Tony Felicio, Jr.**

January 31, 2013

**OFFICE: (631) 676-3061**

Dr. Alan Groveman, Supt. of Schools  
Connetquot Central School District  
780 Ocean Avenue  
Bohemia, New York 11716

Dear Dr. Groveman:

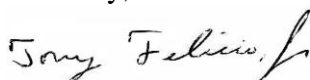
Yesterday, as you may or may not know, OBMS had its septic tank which is located at the entrance of the building and in close proximity to classrooms, offices, and the cafeteria pumped. This pumping took place during school hours when students, teachers, and other staff members were in the building. It was pumped because of an unannounced inspection by an employee from the PESH Bureau of the New York State Division of Safety and Health the day prior. PESH was inspecting the building because of concerns brought to their attention regarding mold issues throughout the building as well as strong odors emanating from various parts of the building.

In discussion with Mr. O'Brien, he stated that within the district's contract with the cesspool company, it clearly states that there should be no pumping of said septic tanks during school hours. The Association would like to see said contract to ensure the accuracy of that response from Mr. O'Brien. On other occasions when chemicals have been used at OBMS which caused people to get sick and it was brought to the district's attention, the Association was assured that when work needs to be done and there is the possibility of there being strong odors that may disrupt the educational process and more importantly make students and staff ill, they would always be done after school hours. Since being told that, within a few short months, we experience a similar problem.

Because of the horrendous odor which occurred, classrooms had to be moved to other parts of the building, a pregnant teacher had to endure the horrific odor, all doors had to be closed because the odor was spreading throughout the building (with some classrooms unable to regulate heat, rooms were sweltering), students were complaining of feeling nauseous, and some never did get to eat their lunch. The attendance, general and guidance offices were all affected also. Rather than the focus in the building being on education, the distraction of the horrendous odor became the topic of the day.

The Association requests for the health benefit of staff and our students, as well as respect for the educational process, that the district confirm with all of their contractors that they not do any work during the school day that causes a disruption (breathing of fumes or septic odors for example) during the school day. If work of that nature "must" be done during the school day, a reasonable request is to make prior arrangements in said building so that disruption is minimal.

Sincerely,



Tony Felicio, Jr.

cc: Board of Education, Board of Directors, PESH

