

# PCB Work & Building Access

Chris Young • 2 months ago • Wednesday, Jul 10 at 11:38 AM • **North Country Union High School**

Greetings Falcon Staff!

I hope you are having wonderful summers, and I apologize in advance for the long and involved email during your break. Please read this in full as it contains important information about the status of PCB work in our school.

As you may recall, at the end of the year we prepped for PCB mitigation work to happen over the summer. For those who have been to school in the past few days, you have seen the chain link fencing and the workers in HazMat suits doing the work. This has obviously caused many disruptions and changes to plans, but so far we have been making it work due to everyone's cooperation and the hard work of our maintenance and IT folks.

At the end of the year, the plan was as follows:

- Remove caulking from around the windows in B-Wing & C-Wing and encapsulate the exterior of the windows, which is minimally disruptive.
- Clean the Univents and replace air filters, which is also minimally disruptive.
- Encapsulate walls and joints in C-Wing with Epoxy paint, which is very disruptive to our classrooms and interior spaces
- Conduct air samples all of the classrooms in B-Wing

Since the end of the year, our consultants and DEC received air sample results from B-Wing which exceeded the acceptable levels for occupancy. Our consultants and DEC anticipated that this was a possibility, and so have moved forward with encapsulating the interior of B-Wing with Epoxy paint as well. This changed the nature of the work significantly in a short amount of time, so our maintenance crews did their best to place all of your items in your classrooms or offices in the center of the room so that the work could happen and that they would not be damaged.

The bad news is that after Friday, no rooms in B-Wing will be accessible to anyone. Our administrative and counseling offices have all relocated to room 402 and the NCCC office (Thanks Gwen!!). Starting Saturday, B-Wing will be 'sealed' and the building will only be available through a protocol that involves scheduling time with Mark Dunbar and the foreman of the work crews. While it is possible that B-Wing will be accessible before August 17th, we cannot count on that, and should in fact plan on not having access to the building until after August 17th. So, if there is something that you need for summer work and planning, you can access your classrooms or space until Friday afternoon. If you can't make it in by then and would like our maintenance crew to try to retrieve items or materials for you, please send [Mark.dunbar@ncsuvt.org](mailto:Mark.dunbar@ncsuvt.org) a detailed email about what it is that they are looking for and we will do our best to find it and keep it for you until you are able to come in to get it.

The even worse news is that since there needs to be approximately 2 weeks from the time the work stops to the time when the building is accessible again, we can expect that both the start of school for teachers as well as the start of school for students will be impacted. Jess Applegate is working on the convocation and professional learning days, and we have been communicating extensively with DEC and AOE about our options for students. I hope to have some clarity and details soon that I can share with you all, but given the time crunch for access to the rooms, I obviously had to send something out asap and we will share details on the myriad other issues that need to be solved as soon as we have information to share. Right now, there are more unknowns than knowns, and Elaine, Mark, and the HS admin team are working through as much information and as many scenarios as possible so that we can develop a plan for both teachers and families to be prepared for the start of the year. In addition to several meetings, we also are anticipating a letter from the Department of Health within the next few days that details our options. However, given the major change to the scope of the work that impacts access to rooms and the need to begin to inform the rest of our school community sooner rather than later, we felt that it was important to let you all know now what is happening.

I know this may be a shock to the system, so I will be available on the link [NCUHS PCB Discussion](#) from 3:30-4:30 tomorrow to answer as many questions as I can. I believe that there will be representatives from DEC, DOH, and AOE on the call as well so you can ask them questions directly.

Please let Elaine or me know if you have any questions in the meantime, and we'll do our best to answer them. I will be

sending out more specific emails in the next couple of days regarding topics such as summer hours, locations that are available for work/meetings, etc.

Hope you are having great summers!

Chris