

OLMSTED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

1992 Route 9, Garrison NY 10524

phone 845 424 4077 • fax 845 424 3482 • email Olmsted.mac@me.com

Date: December 27, 2020

Report for: Margaret Sergent
Second Vice-President
Health and Safety Chairperson
30 North Union Street, Suite 301
Rochester, New York 14607

Email: mmsergent@rochesterteachers.com

Prepared by: Jennifer Long, MS
Ed Olmsted, CIH, CSP

Subject: **Ventilation System Screening
Wilson Commencement School
501 Genesee St, Rochester, NY**

On Monday December 21, 2020, Ed Olmsted and Jennifer Long as well as Margaret Sergent, representing the Rochester NY Teachers Association inspected representative classrooms and the ventilation systems at Wilson Commencement School located at 501 Genesee St, Rochester, NY. The survey team included representatives of the Rochester City School District (RCSD) including Stacie Darby, Environmental Health and Safety, Matthew Seeger, Schools Facilities Management, and Tom Keysa of Schools Facilities Management. The ventilation survey was done as part of the exposure control program for pandemic SARS-CoV-2. The Rochester City Schools District instituted many exposure control measures for the coming year including mandatory wearing of masks, distancing of occupants (reduced occupancy), enhanced cleaning, operating the ventilation systems with a maximum fraction of outside air, and installation of ASHRAE MERV 13 filters, where the HVAC units can accommodate them. Each school will temperature screen entrants and have a nurse's office. Students with symptoms or suspected of having COVID-19 will be isolated in an isolation room.

Wilson Commencement School is located at 501 Genesee St, Rochester, NY and is of pre-war construction. It utilizes steam radiators for heating and has operable windows. The school building has a masonry exterior and is of concrete and steel construction. The building also has a north and south air handler unit. The supply fans provide outside air filtered through MERV 13 filters and heated by steam fan coils in the unit. The ventilation supply system is ducted and supply air is delivered through diffusers. Rooms B4 and B6 have individual air handlers above the ceiling that have an outside air duct and have a steam heating coil. The space above the drop ceiling serves as a return air plenum. Classrooms all have windows that can be opened for outside air, a supply vent

served by the basement blowers and an exhaust grill connected to the house exhaust fans. There are also exhaust fans that serve the bathrooms.

The building will be utilized this January for in-school classes starting with special education students and phasing in elementary and middle school students. This inspection was requested prior to the students return. The survey was done on December 21, 2020 and included the following:

1. A visual inspection of a number of representative classrooms, nurse's office and isolation room as well as the mechanical room;
2. Taking airflow measurement at supply outlets, return/exhaust grilles, univents, and open windows using a TSI 9515 VelociCalc Air Velocity Meter (anemometer); and,
3. A visual inspection of the building ventilation system(s).

The findings include:

1. The two supply fans were inspected and were found to be running and providing outside air taken from a fresh air shaft. The two supply air units have MERV 13 filters. These are recommended by ASHRAE for infection prevention.
2. Rooms B4 and B6 are used for the isolation room and are located above the drop ceiling. These units have outside air ducts that take air through the wall above the windows and ceiling.
3. Each classroom has a supply vent in the wall that provides all outside air from one of the two house supply fans in the basement. The classrooms also have an exhaust grill served by a separate exhaust fan. The classrooms also have radiators for steam heat and operable windows.
4. Air velocity measurements were taken in a number of classrooms from supply diffusers. All diffusers were found to have good airflow.
5. Air velocity measurements were also taken in a number of classrooms from exhaust diffusers. All exhaust diffusers were found to have good airflow.
6. Room 102 has four supply diffusers and all were found to have airflow.
7. Room 104 has one supply and one exhaust, which had good airflow.
8. Room B24 in the basement has a ceiling mounted unit and operable windows. The ceiling unit was off at the time of this survey since it was after hours.
9. The univent in Room B51 is down and is to be serviced

CONCLUSIONS

The school has two large air handlers that provide 100% outside air and have MERV 13 filters and All air is filtered and heated and each classroom is served by the ventilation units and also have operable windows. The operable windows and ventilation system in combination with the wearing of masks, screening students, social distancing, and sanitizing of surfaces as well as other controls provide a sufficient level of infection prevention.



Typical exhaust vent in a classroom



Typical supply vent in a classroom



Steam radiators and operable windows