

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 128

Libertyville High School • Vernon Hills High School

Administration Center

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Sept. 28, 2011

At the Sept. 27 meeting regarding swimming pool compliance, Community High School District 128 Superintendent Dr. Prentiss Lea shared the following updates with parents and pool users:

- Dr. Lea reviewed his meeting with IDPH officials in Springfield on Monday, Sept. 26. At that meeting, he learned that our plan has received a cursory review with initial feedback. The revised plan will be reviewed again. Once the plan has met formatting requirements, it will be placed in the extensive review queue.
- The IDPH General Council said there would be no approval of our plan at the meeting, nor would they discuss the specifics of our plan. However, IDPH engineers did have a 45-minute discussion with our engineers regarding specifics in our plan. As a result of that discussion, the District has acquired much more detail regarding our next plan submission. Practically speaking, that should save us one step in the submission-review-approval process.
- At the meeting, Dr. Lea again accepted responsibility on behalf of the District for failure to address this issue in a timely manner. During the meeting with IDPH, Dr. Lea clearly articulated the District's displeasure with the situation, and he noted that the IDPH communication regarding this issue was not effective in notifying administrators of the pending deadline. In addition, the Lake County Health Department was not copied on any of the IDPH correspondence regarding this issue, which should have acted as a failsafe. IDPH has acknowledged via email that all future communication regarding the District pools will be sent to Dr. Lea.
- Dr. Lea noted that while the original cost of making the pools compliant was estimated at \$6,000. It is now going to cost the District approximately \$125,000 to execute the required repairs. This increase is due to the substantial modifications and reconfiguration of our drain systems.
- Further complicating the District's compliance situation is that the higher cost of repairs now requires the district to follow established policy for obtaining bids on the work, which will extend the compliance process.

- Dr. Lea noted that the process is clearly entrenched in bureaucracy. IDPH officials told him that they will not grant an extension to accommodate their backlog of plan submissions. Revised submissions will be processed in the order in which they are received. In other words, each time we submit a plan for review, it will be placed on the bottom of the pile. IDPH indicated that submission review time is expected to take up to four weeks.
- Dr. Lea noted that our pools are not going to be any less safe on Oct 1 than they were on Sept. 30. As such, IDPH and affected pool users need to find a practical solution.
- Dr. Lea indicated that the District will continue to work with legislators regarding a possible extension. Our legislators are reaching out to the Governor's office to seek assistance regarding an extension request.
- The IDPH will mail letters on Wednesday regarding the closing of non-compliant pools.

Audience Comments Following Comments by Superintendent Lea

How long will the pools be closed?

We estimate the pools will be closed up to 12 weeks after final approval. Approved work requires written specifications, a legal notice must be posted for 10 days, a special board meeting must be held to approve the bid, and we will need 7-10 days to complete the compliance work.

Where will the students swim after Oct 1?

The LHS and VHHS Athletic Directors are working with area pools to secure pool time for our swimmers. The Athletic Directors will notify coaches of the schedules, and the coaches will notify their students and parents.

How will students get to the alternate locations?

We will bus swimmers to and from locations as necessary.

How many high schools are in this predicament?

We have not been able to get an answer to that question from the IDPH.

Have we reached out to pools that are approved to see what their plans look like?

Each pool is different and would therefore have compliance plans that may be different to what is needed for our pools. In addition, approved plans are subject to the interpretation of IDPH engineers.

Of the estimated 400 non-compliant pools, are they mostly indoor or outdoor? Is there anything we can do to help the state prioritize?

We do not know how many pools are still non-compliant, or whether they are mostly indoor or outdoor. The IDPH has indicated that they will not separate the process for reviewing plans of indoor or outdoor pools.

Does the District have funds available to make repairs?

Yes.

How will the needs of Cats Aquatics be addressed?

We have a long standing partnership with Cats Aquatics, and the board and administration are committed to assisting the organization through this crisis. Cats Aquatics is making separate arrangements for its swimmers, and they will communicate that information directly to their parents.

Can we make the required modifications and revisions in advance of being approved?

No. The District will be fined up to \$2500/day if work is completed prior to IDPH approval.

Should we contact the Governor's office?

Yes! To email Illinois Governor Pat Quinn regarding the situation, visit the link below and complete the online email form: <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/pages/contactthegovernor.aspx>. You may call the Governor's office at 217-782-0244.

You may email the Illinois Department of Public Health at DPH.MAILUS@illinois.gov, or call the IDPH Division of Environmental Health at 217-782-5830.