Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students

We would like to take this time to address the two different situations that we have recently experienced. On Monday night at the Choir Concert the fumes from our exhaust stacks were brought into the auditorium by our air intakes. As one of multiple factors caused students to become ill on Monday evening. Prior to the start of the day Tuesday, December 19th school official had the building tested for carbon monoxide. All test results came back negative. As a result the school was determined to be safe and classes resumed.

At about nine thirty students started to feel ill. Due to the number of students reporting symptons school official along with emergency teams decided to cancel school and sent secondary students home. In order to insure our students safety students were kept in their second hour classes as the district arranged transportation and notified parents. Prior to this decision emergency personal had once again swept the building for carbon monoxide and other possible issues.

Following the student's departure the Saint Cloud Chemical Assessment Team, Minnesota Department of Health, Homeland Security Emergency Management, Paynesville Fire Department, Paynesville Police Department, Stearns County Sheriffs Department, State Fire Marshall's Office, Stearns County Emergency Management, Climate Air (Checked Boilers), Centerpoint (Checked Gas) , Paynesville Area Health Care were contacted to sweep the building for multiple organic compounds, inorganic compounds and other factors that could have explained the student's illness. These organization also contacted other outside agencies to confirm their findings.

To further ensure a healthier climate for the students the district is going to use Wed., Dec. 19th the sanitize the building and to allow secondary students to stay home and rest. Due to transportation routes and staffing the elementary students will also have the day off. School will resume on Thursday, December 20th.

The district is continuing to work diligently to ensure the safety of all staff and students. We encourage parents if your child is not feeling well please keep them home to fully recover. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email the Paynesville Area District Office rhuot@paynesville.k12.mn.us.

Sincerely,

Bob Huot

Paynesville Area Superintendent

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