February 23, 2020

Dear Clara Barton Elementary School Community:

I’m writing to provide an important update on environmental work at Barton Elementary School. As you know, the school was closed last week in order for necessary work to be done following the discovery of damaged asbestos-containing materials in some parts of the building.

**We are pleased to inform you that, following the successful testing and clean-up project that occurred at your school last week, we will reopen tomorrow, Monday, February 24. Students and staff are to report to Barton for a normal instructional day.**

Air quality testing conducted by two independent firms came back as “non-detect” or well below City of Philadelphia standards, resulting in our ability to declare the building cleared for reoccupancy.

We understand that this has been a situation that has caused a heightened sense of concern, but we assure you that we have made every effort to address environmental safety issues that have been made known to us. The health and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we’ve worked to make Barton Elementary suitable for reoccupancy.

On behalf of Barton Principal Colleen Bowen and all Barton staff, I want to thank you for your continued support and understanding as we work to ensure a safe school environment for your children.

Sincerely,

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.