

Bulletin #36

Hello Sierra House Families,

We are pleased to inform you that Sierra House school will reopen tomorrow, Tuesday, October 1st for all grade levels. On Sunday, Sept. 29, Lake Valley Fire Chiefs Chad Stephen and Brad Zlendick completed their inspections and approved the occupancy of the entire Sierra House Elementary School.

School start and end times will remain the same (9:10 AM - 3:20 PM) and transportation will shift back to regular routes. Bus drivers will start checking for passes tomorrow. If you haven't filled out a form, please do so. I've attached a form to this email.

Picture Day is rescheduled to Tuesday, October 22nd. Retake Picture Day will be Wednesday, December 4th.

Conference Week is next week, October 7th - 11th. Look in your child's folders and backpacks for more individualized teacher information this week.

Can't wait to see us all back together again tomorrow.

Thank you,

Shandi and Mrs. Holmes

Bulletin #35

So that we can maintain the learning environment in the classrooms for every child, we are asking for your cooperation. We will not interrupt classes or release students after 2:45 p.m. We apologize for the inconvenience, but our students' learning is our number one priority. Doctor appointments should be scheduled after school or students need to be picked up before 2:30. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

The Belfor Construction crew continues to finalize construction in the MPR. Students will be moved into the school next week, although the exact date is unknown at this time. The district's maintenance and custodial crews are wiping down dust, cleaning carpets and bathrooms, and testing the water, HVAC, and fire systems. Air quality testing and final fire inspections will take place prior to reoccupancy. Teachers have been setting up their classrooms in the upper pod throughout this week, Conex boxes are being removed, and Belfor is planning their departure.

Until we are all back at Sierra House we will continue with our current, drop off and pick up procedures. If you are dropping your student off at Sierra House, please make sure you arrive between 9:00 and 9:10. ALL students are welcome at the Al Tahoe site between 8:30 and 9:10. We bus all 4th and 5th and Ms. Pillsbury's second graders from Al Tahoe to Sierra House at 9:10. If you need to drop your student prior to 8:30, please see the Kid Zone information below. This is a wonderful program run by Edna Swartz and is a safe and supervised place for our students who need early drop off.

Important dates coming up:

Because we will be moving back to Sierra House next week, we are in the process of rescheduling Picture Day likely during the week of October 14.

Our Annual Walk-a-thon is scheduled for Friday, October 11th. We are looking forward to a great day. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to your classroom teacher!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns as we work from two school sites.

With gratitude,

Mrs. Holmes

Weekly Happening
9/30-10/4

Monday September 30th

Tuesday, October 1st

Cafecitos meeting at 9:15 in the Golden Eagle Room at Al Tahoe

3rd-5th grade choir rehearsal 8:00-9:00 every Tuesday! This week in room A-2 at Al Tahoe

Wednesday, October 2nd

Thursday, October 3rd

School Site Council Meeting 8:00 a.m. in Sierra House Staff Lounge

Friday, October 4th

The week of 10/7-10/11 Parent teacher conference week. Minimum days all day with 12:50 dismissal.

Monday, October 7

Tuesday, October 8

Wednesday, October 9

Thursday, October 10

Friday, October 11th

Walk-a-thon 9:30-11:00

September 30 - Walkathon envelopes go home We are using the online fundraising tool 99

Pledges again. Donors can also pay by cash or check made out to Sierra House PTA.

Information regarding how to join as a participant will be included in the Walkathon letter, in both English and Spanish. This year's theme is "Being kind is cool!"

October 10 - Walkathon envelopes due - All money should be collected and turned in by this date.

October 11 - WALKATHON

THE AERIES PARENT PORTAL IS STILL OPEN

Reminder that ALL RETURNING STUDENTS MUST update their emergency contact information online through the Aeries Parent Portal. The Aeries Parent Portal is where you will be able to update your student's information, check attendance and eventually check grades when they get to STMS. If you need help or access to a computer, please stop by the office.

FREE OR REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION

CONFIDENTIAL FREE OR REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION – Everyone that fills out the application, whether you qualify or not, automatically receives 50% off their Chromebook insurance! The application is confidential and used internally only by the LTUSD food services and transportation department to qualify your student for free or reduced meals and free or reduced buspasses. Your information is not shared with any outside agencies and it does not affect your credit. What it does do is provide your child with healthy meals during the school day and earns money for academic programs for our school!

TRANSPORTATION

BUS PASSES: Qualification for free or reduced will be determined based on results from your Free and Reduced Meal Application as the income criteria has been aligned to match both programs. However, you must fill out a Bus Transportation Application as well. Please turn your application into the school office and you will receive information on your application within approximately two weeks. The deadline to purchase a regular fee bus pass with a 10% discount is Friday, Sept. 13.

KID ZONE

The Kid Zone Program is an Early Morning Childcare for grades K-5th and will run from 7:30-8:30 a.m. and is currently being held at the Al Tahoe Site. If you are interested in enrolling your child/children please stop by the front desk and complete an application and submit payment. There is a \$30 enrollment fee for the first child and \$10 each additional child. The daily fee for attendance after enrollment is \$5 or \$25 per week. Please note that students not enrolled in the Kids Zone Program may not be dropped off before 8:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY EVENTS

[Click to see what is going on in the Community:](#)

[Play and Learn for Families 0-5](#)

[LTCC Free English as a Second Language and Citizenship classes](#)

[Mexican Mobile Consulate in South Lake Tahoe](#)

[Click below for Family Friendly events:](#)

[Community wide Health Faire](#)

Bulletin #34

September 17, 2019

Sierra House Construction Update:

Notable Milestones:

Staff restrooms complete
Plumbing in nurse's restroom complete
MPR 12x12 panels started
Special (source) room drywall hung, all walls insulated, ceiling insulation more than 50%
Upper pod classrooms complete
Upper pod work rooms complete
Upper pod student RRs complete
Conex box removal has begun.

Remaining Tasks:

Main corridors:

Finish wood paneling installation (early this coming week)
Shoot sanding sealer and finish coats on wood paneling (Thursday PM this coming week.)
Trim out ceiling tiles to edges.

Special room:

Seismic clips on T-bar
Lights in T-bar
Fire alarm finishes
Windows on exterior wall
Finish tack board
Finish HVAC duct to grilles

MPR:

12x12 on side walls
Empty of construction materials and tools, clean. Load contents
Mount beam detector (Fire alarm) on finished wall.

PE room:

Frame false wall (Monday 9/16)
Sheetrock and finish false wall.
Hang T-bar grid
Lighting and Fire Alarm in T-bar
Fire sprinklers in T-bar
Drop ceiling tiles
Tack board on walls
Access panels for Sprinkler valves.
Remove construction materials and clean

Site work:

Ramp for PE room (can happen after school is back in, but will hold up DSA cert.)
Empty connex boxes and remove from site (in process).

Crack sealing and seal coat playgrounds (weekend work)
Restripe playgrounds (weekend work)

See also attached Mold Testing, VOC Air Sample Testing, Ozone and CO Testing, results.

Sincerely,

Lake Tahoe Unified School District

September 10, 2019

URGENT INFORMATION: Important Update on Construction and School Day Changes for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of THIS WEEK:

Sierra House Families and Staff:

First and foremost, in further response to parent concerns for student safety, the District wants to reassure you that all safety protocols outlined in yesterday's bulletin (and attached again here) are being followed by district staff and Belfor construction staff, with fidelity, and with the understanding of the sensitive nature of construction workers being in the vicinity of students. Again, separation of the construction zones and learning spaces is in place. There is no interaction between construction workers and students, period. Workers are not using student bathrooms, contrary to DISPARAGING RUMORS. There was not a construction fire yesterday, contrary to DISPARAGING RUMORS.

On Friday, September 6, the district obtained DSA (Division of State Architect with construction authority for inspection and approval to occupy) approval to occupy specific areas of the school site deemed safe for occupancy including the kitchen, lunch room (½ of the MPR), four classrooms in the upper pod, the lower pod, the office, restrooms, and the portable classrooms. Late in the day on Friday, the Lake Valley Fire Chief insisted that the upper pod not be reoccupied until the four remaining classrooms were completed. The district complied and moved those students to Al Tahoe school site as of Monday, Sept. 9. A Notification of Occupancy #DSA 6PI 211 was filed yesterday.

Upon occupation of the school, the responsibility of fire and safety was transferred from DSA to Lake Valley Fire. Yesterday, in the construction area in the nurse's office, smoke was caused due to the grinding of a pipe, triggering the fire alarm. There was NO FIRE, however, upon further inspection, Lake Valley Fire Chief Tim Alameda, determined the following:

MPR: Half of the MPR is blocked off for construction. Because the MPR accordion wall is not fireproof, and for precautionary measures, the chief requests that the students receive their lunch by delivery to their classrooms.

Lower Pod: Chief Alameda is requesting to complete the construction of a fire wall in the Speech room, adjacent to the nurse room and lower pod. For precautionary measures he is requesting that the lower pod, including Kindergarten, Special Ed, and 1st grade classes, be relocated until the firewall is constructed.

Portables: Chief Alameda approved the occupancy of the free-standing portable classrooms - 4th and 5th grade classes, and Ms. Pilsbry's 2nd grade class. These students may remain on campus.

Additional Fencing: Temporary chain link fencing is replacing the orange construction fencing and caution tape to address public concerns.

In response to Chief Alameda's request, beginning tomorrow, September 11, 2019, all K-5 students will be bussed to Al Tahoe for breakfast and morning recess.

On Friday, September 13, Lake Valley Fire will inspect the firewall installation adjacent to the lower pod, and if approved, will allow students to reoccupy the lower pod permanently. They will additionally inspect the upper pod which is expected to be approved, so that all students will be back to the campus on Monday, September 16. Access to the upper pod will continue to be from the outside doorways until all construction is complete. Belfor is in the process of removing Conex boxes on campus over the next two weeks.

ALL STUDENTS - BEGINNING TOMORROW, SEPTEMBER 11: All students will be dropped and/or bussed to the Al Tahoe Campus, including those students in the portable classrooms. All students will eat breakfast and have morning recess at the Al Tahoe campus.

SIERRA HOUSE PORTABLE CLASSROOM STUDENTS ONLY: 4th and 5th grade classes, and Ms. Pillsbury's 2nd grade class will then be bussed back to Sierra House for the school day. At the end of the day ALL BUSSERS, SIBLINGS OF STUDENTS AT THE AL TAHOE SITE, AND BOYS & GIRLS CLUB STUDENTS will be bussed back to the Al Tahoe campus. ALL OTHER STUDENTS MAY REMAIN AT SIERRA HOUSE FOR PARENT PICK UP.

MINIMUM DAY ON THURSDAY: All elementary schools have a minimum day on Thursday for Back to School Night. While Sierra House school will not hold its Back to School night on Thursday (TBD after construction is completed) it will still have a minimum day. **School will be out at 12:50 PM.** Portable Classroom students at Sierra House who are bus riders and B&G Club students will depart Sierra House at 12:50 PM and go to Al Tahoe. At 1:00 PM, bus riders going home will depart from Al Tahoe and B&G Club students will remain at B&G Club. Portable Classroom student pickups may be picked up at Sierra House at 12:50 PM.

IN SUMMARY: All K-3 and SDC students, with the exception of Ms. Pillsbury's 2nd grade will remain at Al Tahoe during the school days Wednesday, Sept. 11 through Friday, Sept. 13. Bussing to and from, and pick up to and from, for these students will take place at the Al Tahoe site.

If a parent has any issue or concern and wants to request independent study until the completion of construction, please see Shandi Ashmore in the front office at Sierra House school. The overall target date for completion of the entire school is Monday, September 23, 2019.

Thank you for your continued support and positivity as we work together toward the close of the reconstruction project.

Sincerely,
Dr. James R. Tarwater and Principal Karin Holmes

Bulletin #31

September 9, 2019

Hello Sierra House families,

Members of the Board of Education have been approached by parents asking various questions about the construction at Sierra House. We hope the following Questions/Answers will address some of your concerns:

Question: Why has the construction taken so long to complete?

Answer: All public school construction projects are under the authority of the CA Division of State Architect (DSA). The process of evaluating, planning, tearing down, rebuilding, and inspecting is time consuming. In this case the school was required to bring the campus to ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance in addition to the required structural repair and cleaning work. DSA gave the district approval to start work in mid-June. The district's liability insurance company required the district to use Belfor's services. The District did not choose the construction company and had very little say in the use of outside, or local, vendors. Belfor's main office is out of Reno and most of the workers commute every day.

Question: When will the construction be completed?

Answer: At this time the target date for completion of the remaining four classrooms in the upper pod is Wednesday, September 11. The overall target date for completion of the entire school is Monday, September 23, 2019. These are estimates. The original target date was August 26. Parents and staff expressed their wishes to move back into the Sierra House campus at the beginning of the school year, and to not have to be relocated again to Al Tahoe and South Tahoe Middle School. This was the district's goal since receiving DSA approval in June, however, with typical construction delays, the school is just now able to be occupied in limited spaces.

Question: Why were students allowed to go back to school with construction work still occurring?

Answer: It is not unusual for school construction to take place while students are in school. Over the last fifteen years at LTUSD, Dr. Tarwater has overseen \$100 million in construction projects over a period of five years, at South Tahoe High School, Bijou Community School, South Tahoe Middle School, during the school year. Districts all over California frequently do construction work during the school year. The US Department of Education funded a publication titled, "A Principal's Guide to On-Site School Construction," which LTUSD has used as a guide throughout this process.

Question: What precautions are being taken to safeguard students while construction is occurring during school hours?

Answer: Please see the attached Protocols for Safe Operation of Sierra House School which addresses Separation of Construction and Instructional Spaces; Communications; Fire Alarm Coverage and Fire Watch; and Security Protocols. In addition, Belfor's protocols

regarding interacting with staff and students is to remain inside the construction zoned areas – any movement of vehicles or personnel through non-construction zones is coordinated with front office staff by radio. Movement is postponed if during or close to a passing period or other time where students are being moved outside the buildings. Belfor handles background checking of its employees and it is the responsibility of Belfor's DOJ-cleared Supervisor, to oversee these protocols and ensure there is not interaction with staff and students.

Question: Who is responsible for construction oversight and occupancy?

Answer: DSA's involvement with Fire and Life Safety review of public schools derives from Govt. Code Section 14963 which states, "The duties and functions formerly conducted by the State Fire Marshal that relate to construction, school, plan checking, and construction inspection are hereby transferred to the Office of the State Architect."

The qualifications for the personnel reviewing fire and life safety aspects of school construction projects at DSA are the same as the qualifications required by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

Notification of Occupancy #DSA 6PI 211 filed today, documents the school site areas being occupied and in compliance, and identifies those areas still under construction, and therefore not compliant. In addition, the newly installed fire alarm and control devices bring the school to current standards which is a significant improvement over the old system. Please note, however, that the fire alarm system may be triggered over the next couple of weeks due to construction.

If you have any other questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Superintendent's office, members of the Board of Education, or Principal Karin Holmes.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Tarwater, Superintendent

Protocols for Safe Operation of Sierra House School

Separation of construction and instructional spaces

1. All construction areas are off limits to students and staff. The construction zones consist of:
 - Areas roped off with snow fence or caution tape
 - The following portions of the main school building: Upper pod, corridor to upper pod, main corridor from boiler room to midpoint near corridor to upper pod, special room, PE room and 1/3 of MPR.
2. Students should be chaperoned to soccer field and play structures for play times.
3. Kindergarten playground will be free of construction activities and may operate normally.
4. Path of travel for students in portables 1-6 consists of travelling across the fronts of the portables to the rear (P6) in order to access the playground. There is no access to the main building from near P1.
5. Path of travel for students in P7 is across the front of P1-6, as above. There is no access to the main building from near P1.
6. Students in R5-8 shall be escorted across the blacktop to the play structures and soccer field for play time.
7. The rear of the lobby may be used to access lower playground. Snow fencing is set up to keep students away from the special room and the exterior to rooms R9-11. Students will be released from the MPR at 8:55 to the lower blacktop area where monitors will direct them to the play structures and soccer field for the 15 minute period of play before school starts at 9:10 AM. Students will then line up for their teachers and be led to their classrooms via approved paths of travel.
8. Any movement of construction vehicles or personnel through non-construction zones must be coordinated with front office staff. Belfor will call the front office on the radio and inform staff of the impending movement. A staff member will be dispatched to escort the vehicle or personnel from one zone to another. Movement will be postponed if during or close to a passing period or other time where students are being moved outside buildings.

Communications

1. Phones are up in Lower Pod and Portables. The phones will be used to communicate any construction activities that may impact paths of travel. They may also be used for All-Call communications/announcements as they were before the fire.
2. Radios will be distributed to all classrooms. Radios will be used as backup communications for phones and for communications to staff on playground duty. Radios shall also be used between Fire Watch and front office. All staff should keep radios on them when not in their classroom.

Fire Alarm coverage and Fire Watch

1. The Fire Alarm is complete with the exception of the beam detectors in the MPR. The fire alarm devices in the occupied spaces are functional and are being monitored. Any dust or smoke

generated in the occupied classrooms, offices, corridors, restrooms or the kitchen will trigger the fire alarm. The smoke monitoring devices in the construction zone will remain covered with dust caps until the area is deemed complete. For this reason (and the MPR), a Fire Watch protocol will be in effect. Additional portions of the building will be brought on line as construction activities are completed in each area.

2. The new fire alarm system now includes horns and strobes (flashing lights) in every space in the building. There will likely be a fire drill in the first few days back. Expect bright flickering lights, siren sounds and a recorded voice announcement instructing occupants to evacuate.
3. **Note: Permanent change to fire alarm/drill protocol.** Assembly area has been moved off of blacktop onto the soccer field. The blacktop must remain clear for the emergency response vehicles. All other fire alarm/drill protocols and evacuation routes will remain the same as from before the fire.
4. **Fire Watch:** A dedicated LTUSD staff member will be assigned to a standard fire watch for the construction zones and the MPR. During breakfast and lunchtimes, when large numbers of students are present in the MPR, a second LTUSD staff member will be assigned to focus on that area, and the primary Fire Watch person will closely monitor the closed portion of the MPR and the stage area. The Fire Watch patrol shall be executed every hour, and any violations, corrections, observations or comments shall be recorded in the Fire Watch log. The log shall be made available to the Fire Marshal upon request. A separate log shall be kept for the open portion of the MPR. All members of the Fire Watch shall carry radios during occupied hours at the school. After hours fire watch shall carry a cell phone to call 911 should any incidents be detected when they are alone on site. All Fire Watch personnel will be familiarized with Fire Extinguisher locations and the Pull Station at the front door.
5. **Fire Extinguishers:** Please do not move any fire extinguishers from their hangers unless it is to use them. Note the new fire extinguishers in the library in the lower pod and memorize their locations if they are closest to your classroom. Fire extinguishers may be placed on the floor spaced throughout the construction zone and in the MPR with signage posted above specifically for the Fire Watch. Never move these fire extinguishers without coordinating with Fire Watch.
6. **Vehicle gates and emergency services ingress:** LTUSD staff will be assigned to respond to the two vehicle gates in the event of a fire alarm or other emergency (medical, etc). They will then unlock and open the gates as emergency vehicles arrive in case they need to drive to areas within the site. Construction zone delineation near fire lanes is made with caution tape so they can drive through it in case construction personnel cannot get the tape down before they arrive. No fire lanes shall be obstructed by construction materials, vehicles of any kind, assemblies of students or any other obstacles (garbage cans, debris, tools, furniture, boxes, etc.). Fire Watch will walk fire lanes as part of patrol to ensure the path of travel is being kept open.

Security Protocols

1. Keep vehicle gates and main gates closed and locked when school is in session (standard operating procedure from before fire).
2. Lockdown procedure remains the same for classrooms, offices and main entrances. Lock doors, draw blinds, turn off lights, and be quiet.

3. Construction staff will be instructed to lock down construction zone doors should an event occur. They shall lock all exterior doors and seek shelter in the MDF and Workroom in the upper pod.

Bulletin #30

September 6, 2019

Attention All 3rd Grade Parents and Parents of Vivian Rider's 2nd Grade Class:

There have been safety concerns raised about construction continuing in the upper pod while students occupy the adjacent classrooms. As you know, four classrooms are completed, and four are still under construction. While it is not uncommon to occupy a school during construction, the district has decided to relocate the four classrooms (3 – 3rd grade and 1 – 2nd grade) offsite to the Al Tahoe campus until construction is completed. The district feels this is in the best interest of student safety and will also allow an expedited construction process for the four remaining rooms. **Those students being relocated will still arrive and depart from the Sierra House campus.** Students will be bussed after breakfast to the Al Tahoe campus. At the end of the school day students will be bussed back to Sierra House where they can be picked up by parents or depart on buses.

On Monday morning 2nd and 3rd grade teachers will be on the grass in front of the school to greet parents and students, make sure permission slips are signed, and find out how their students will go home each day (i.e. bus or pick up).

All other classrooms in the portables and lower pod will be occupied and school will open on Monday as planned. Construction will continue in the upper pod as planned and the *estimated* completion date for the four remaining classrooms is September 13, 2019.

All students in the third grade are going on full-day field trips next week on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Upon arrival on Monday you will see construction workers and vehicles as they continue to complete the four classrooms in the upper pod. **The construction area will be sealed off from staff and students.**

The district appreciates the extremely hard work of the many people involved in getting Sierra House up and running. Although this slight setback is inconvenient, we will continue to work together, be proactive, and look forward to the coming weeks when Sierra House School is whole again. Thank you for your continued patience and support of our school.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Tarwater and Principal Karin Holmes

Bulletin #29

September 4, 2019

Hello Sierra House Families and Staff,

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, September 9 for the first day of school. For all grades except Kindergarten, the start time is 9:10 AM. All final classroom assignments can be found in the Aeries Parent Portal and will be posted at the school site after 11am on Sunday, Sept. 8. Kindergarten orientation with parents will be held at the start time of 10:00 AM and running to 11:15 AM. Pick up time for all students is 3:20 PM. Bus schedules are posted on the District website under Parents – Transportation.

Upon your arrival on Monday you will see construction workers and vehicles as they continue to complete four classrooms in the upper pod. The construction area will be sealed off from students and parents. Access to classrooms in the upper pod will be from the outside entrances next to the playground. All classrooms will be marked with teachers' names.

As teachers are moving back into the school and prepping their classrooms over the next two days we ask that you please do not enter the school grounds.

As the final four classrooms in the upper pod are being completed, Ms. Rider's and Ms. Tabor's classes will be doubled-up and they will be co-teaching with their grade levels during this brief period. As soon as the rooms are completed they will move in.

The following construction-related items have occurred this week:

- Office lights installed. Fire Alarm devices installed.
- Nurse's Office doors installed. Ceiling complete.
- MPR soffit painted blue.
- Corridor lights and fire alarm complete.
- Lobby walls and ceilings complete. Large lumber round to go up Thursday morning.
- Staff restroom ceilings and lights complete. Tile is grouted.
- R9 – R12: Ceilings, cabinets, carpets, near completion.
- Upper pod restrooms grout complete today.

We welcome all Sierra House families back to school! Teachers are very excited to see their students' smiling faces, to jump into learning, and make this year the best and most successful year yet! Welcome back!

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Tarwater and Principal Karin Holmes

Bulletin #28

August 29, 2019

Hello Sierra House Families and Staff,

The following construction-related items have occurred this week:

- T-Bar ceilings and lights complete in upper pod
- Tackboard is on power walls in all classrooms. Wiremold is installed in all 8 classrooms.
- Fire alarm devices are about 50% in classrooms and corridors. They should be complete for whole site by next Wednesday. Complete in portables and lower pod. Fire Alarm testing is Thursday morning with fire marshal.
- Carpet is scheduled to go in early next week in rooms R9-12.
- Admin, Nurse's office, Nurse's RR, Staff RR, Workrooms, storage and upper pod restrooms ceilings getting final paint.
- 12x12 ceiling tiles almost complete in lobby and 50% in main corridors. Likely complete by Saturday with lights and FA devices installed.
- Smartboard brackets are going up in upper pod (all 8 rooms) Tuesday. Smartboards will be mounted first thing Friday in R9-12.
- VOC testing scheduled for Tuesday AM
- Cabinet installation scheduled to be complete in rooms R9-12 by Saturday.
- Internet has been restored to site.

We are pleased to inform you that Sierra House is still on target for a school start date of Monday, September 9, 2019. Teacher/classroom migration into the school will begin on Tuesday, September 3 in the afternoon. An update will be provided to you on Wednesday, September 4 as to final classroom assignments and any other pertinent information.

Currently we have 180 students attending the Al Tahoe/Boys & Girls Club extended summer program and it has been extremely successful. The program will continue through next week. Again, we thank you for your patience and understanding during our delayed start to the school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Tarwater
Superintendent

Bulletin #27

Hello Sierra House Families and Staff,

Here are some construction-related items that happened today and over the weekend:

- T-bar ceilings in upper pod are mostly complete in 3 rooms (started Friday noon)
- Both driveways were repaved today by the County
- The wall framing on the burnt area was erected today and most rafters are back in place.
- HVAC is almost done on PE/Stage area. This is the last Ductwork needed for the project.
- Fire alarm device installation started today in lower pod. Fire alarm rough wiring complete in portables.
- Finish taping is underway for administration ceiling.

Principal Holmes will be sending a welcome back to school letter to families tomorrow.

Thank you,

Steve Brennan, PE
Sustainability and Projects Supervisor
Lake Tahoe Unified School District
Facilities Department
530 543-2219 x1065 Phone
530 543-2227 FAX

August 16, 2019

Dear Sierra House Families and Staff,

We regret to inform you that Sierra House will not be open on time for the first day of school, although we welcome you to the 2019/20 school year. The district has been optimistic throughout the summer that we would be able to open the school on schedule but setbacks in the construction process have pushed the opening date back to September 9, at the latest. The district understands this will cause an inconvenience for many and we are working to alleviate issues for working families or any student needing care through September 9. The following will hopefully address your questions and concerns:

Boys & Girls Club Extended Summer Program:

The district will provide day care at no cost to families at the Boys & Girls Club during regular school hours beginning August 26 through the opening of Sierra House. Supervision will be provided by both Boys & Girls Club and district staff members. The program will be modeled after the Boys & Girls Club's regular summer program. The program is optional – attendance is not required.

Transportation:

Bussing to and from the Boys & Girls Club will be provided on the same schedule as the Sierra House school's regular bussing schedule. Here are the [bus route pick-up and drop off schedules](#).

Meals:

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided by LTUSD to all extended summer program participants at no cost. [Breakfast and Lunch Menus can be found here](#).

Sign-up for the Program:

If you wish to participate in the extended summer program, please contact Shandi Ashmore by Email: sashmore@ltusd.org or Phone/text: (530) 318-1517.

Please indicate if:

- 1) **Your child will or will not be bussing to or from Boys & Girls Club.**
- 2) **Your child will eat breakfast at the Club.**

Academic Enrichment:

The district will offer an After-school Academic Academy for 4th and 5th grade students beginning in October, 2019, for any students who need additional academic support. As well, an optional summer school program for missed instructional time is being considered.

Status of the Construction at Sierra House

- 1) Significant progress is being made daily by Belfor's large construction crew (26 workers on site) and various local companies.
[Here is a link to the Recovery Bulletins with photos.](#)
- 2) Air testing will be completed prior to reoccupation of the school.
- 3) ADA compliance projects (paving and restrooms) are very close to completion.

In closing, the district would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the Sierra House families and staff for your patience and understanding throughout this challenging time. We are very thankful to all of the hard work of the Belfor team, our local construction, mechanical, electrical, and paving companies, and district staff members, who are making the Sierra House school a safe and fun place for our kids to return - very soon!

With warm regards,

Dr. James R. Tarwater
Superintendent

16 de agosto de 2019

Queridas familias y personal de Sierra House,

Lamentamos informarles que la escuela Sierra House no estará abierta para el primer día de clases, a pesar de eso les damos la bienvenida al nuevo año escolar 2019-2020. El distrito ha estado muy optimista durante el verano de que se podría abrir la escuela como se tenía previsto, pero se tuvieron algunos contratiempos en la construcción que atrasaron la fecha al 9 de Septiembre, a más tardar. El distrito entiende que esto causará inconveniente para muchos y estamos trabajando en disminuir los problemas para las familias que trabajan o cualquier otro estudiante que necesite un lugar donde lo cuiden hasta el 9 de septiembre. Esperamos que lo siguiente pueda resolver algunas de sus dudas:

Programa extendido de Boys and Girls Club:

El distrito proveerá cuidado de niños, sin costo, a las familias de Boys and Girls Club durante las horas regulares de escuela, empezando el 26 de agosto hasta que se abra la escuela Sierra House. Se proveerá supervisión por Boys and Girls Club y por parte del personal del distrito. El programa se basará en el programa de verano regular de Boys and Girls club. El programa es opcional - la asistencia no es requerida.

Transporte:

Se proveerá transporte de y hacia Boys and Girls Club, con el mismo horario de transporte que tiene la escuela Sierra House. [Aquí está el link con las rutas en donde se recogen y se dejan a los estudiantes.](#)

Comidas:

LTUSD proveerá desayuno y comida gratis a todos los participantes de programas de verano extendido. [Los menús de las comidas pueden ser encontrados aquí.](#)

Inscripción para el programa:

Si desea participar en el programa extendido de verano, por favor contacte a Shandi Ashmore por correo electrónico: sashmore@ltusd.org o teléfono o mensaje de texto: (530) 318-1517.

Por favor indique si

1. **Su hijo usará o no el servicio de transporte para Boys and Girls Club.**
2. **Si su hijo tomará su desayuno en el club.**

Enriquecimiento Académico:

El distrito ofrecerá el programa de Academia Después-de Clases para estudiantes 4to y 5to grado, empezando en octubre de 2019, para cualquier estudiante que necesite apoyo académico. Así mismo, se está considerando un programa de verano opcional para recuperar el tiempo perdido de instrucción.

Estado de la construcción en Sierra House:

1. Se hizo un significativo progreso por parte del equipo de construcción de Belfor (26 trabajadores en la escuela) y varias compañías locales.
[Aquí está un link con la información y las fotografías.](#)
2. Las pruebas de aire se completarán antes de que se vuelva a ocupar la escuela.
3. Los programas de cumplimiento de ADA (pavimentación y baños) están muy cerca de ser terminados.

Para finalizar, al distrito le gustaría extender su más sincero agradecimiento a las familias de sierra house y su personal por su paciencia y comprensión a lo largo de este tiempo tan retador. Estamos muy agradecidos por el trabajo duro del equipo de Belfor, nuestros constructores locales, compañías mecánicas, eléctricas y de pavimentación y el personal del distrito, que están haciendo de Sierra House una escuela segura y divertida para el regreso de nuestros niños - Muy Pronto!

Saludos cordiales,

Dr. James R. Tarwater
Superintendente

August 9, 2019

On June 12th the district was granted approval by the DSA (California Division of State Architect) to begin the restoration process at Sierra House Elementary School. The school had been demolished down to the studs in 70% of the spaces in order to remove all smoke damaged building materials. The construction team is working very hard to complete all work before the scheduled first day of school (August 26th.) As we get closer to that target date, and as more information becomes available, we will continue to provide updates. Additionally, as promised, the District will conduct air quality testing prior to the reoccupation of the school.

Since the construction phase began on June 13th, the following milestones have been achieved:

- 90% of all ductwork and heating units in the affected areas have been rebuilt or replaced.
- 90% of walls and roofs have been re-insulated to much higher R-values than the building originally had.
- 90% of walls in corridors, MPR, PE room, and upper pod have received new drywall.
- The Staff restrooms had the floors demolished and have been reconfigured to meet new ADA standards. The new walls were erected, insulated and drywalled. The wall tile is being installed now.
- The front walkways and sidewalks were demolished and re-poured to be brought up to modern ADA code.
- The modern Fire Alarm System (ADA compliant) is more than 50% installed.

LTUSD would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Belfor, Artifex Homes, Gardner Mechanical, Sierra Valley Electric, Far West Insulation, BEI, Ron Fuller, Custom Concrete, and all of the LTUSD staff that have been working hard this summer to get our school open again. We thank you for your patience.



BEFORE



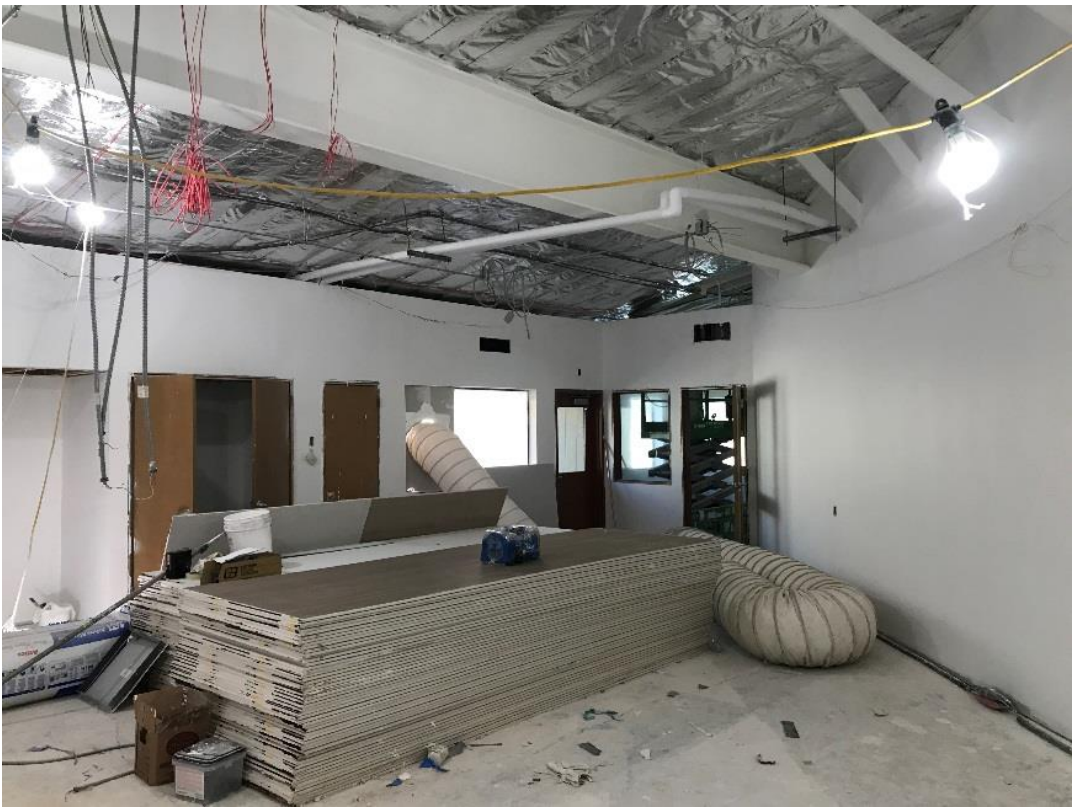
AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

Sierra House Recovery Bulletin #24

June 18, 2019

We received DSA approval Wednesday, June 12th. This was the same morning Belfor conducted the kick-off meeting with their subs in anticipation of this approval, in order to begin to build the final construction schedule. Belfor is working with the insurance company to develop a very aggressive schedule with the target of partial reopening August 1st for registration, and completion by August 15th. The insulation and HVAC subs have already begun working, and additional subs are expected next week to try to make these targets a reality. The site will be closed to the public and to LTUSD personnel unless arrangements have been made ahead of time.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes
Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP
Recovery Project Manager
543-2219 ext. 1065
sbrennan@ltusd.org

Sierra House Recovery Bulletin #23
June 7, 2019

The Sierra House DSA approval is almost complete. We received final approval on ADA, structural and Fire Life Safety for all aspects of the project except Fire Alarm. The DSA asked for some additional modifications to the fire alarm drawings which are taking longer than expected, but are anticipated to arrive at the architect's today (6/7/19). The architect expects to have full DSA approval by Monday 6/10/19, and the contractors have already begun to mobilize multiple crews in anticipation of a full court press to get the building done by early August. The insurance company is supporting this approach and authorizing the additional crews. Please stay tuned for further updates as construction progresses.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes
Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP
Recovery Project Manager
543-2219 ext. 1065
sbrennan@ltusd.org

Sierra House Recovery
Bulletin # 22

March 8, 2019

DSA submittal is scheduled for late next week. The ADA upgrade designs took longer than expected and triggered additional requirements and reviews. Demolition is almost complete, and the wood (in walls and above ceilings) that was exposed to smoke is in the process of being encapsulated to ensure no smoke odors return. The upgraded insulation and other construction materials have been ordered in anticipation of DSA approval.

Estimated date to re-occupy the building is currently July 1st based on additional asphalt and concrete and other work required to satisfy ADA.

Respectfully,
Karin Holmes
Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP
Recovery Project Manager
543-2219 ext. 1065
sbrennan@ltusd.org

Bulletin #21 (Bulletin 20 was misnumbered as 21)

Sierra House Recovery

February 1, 2019

The following is a summary of the work being done at the Sierra House Campus as of today:

- Abatement behind HVAC and electrical equipment
- Containment removed on upper pod
- Demo work completed in the following areas: Admin, corridors, upper pod, electrical room.
- Abatement currently happening in MPR and PE room.
- Working with DSA for a 2 phase approval for general construction and ADA access.
- Water, power and internet are currently down for the site.

At this time, realistically, we are planning on being on the AI Tahoe and STMS campuses for the remainder of the school year. Thank you for your unending patience and cooperation as we work together to maximize learning, repair our school and create a positive school experience for everyone involved.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes

Principal, Sierra House Elementary School

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP

Recovery Project Manager

543-2219 ext. 1065

sbrennan@ltusd.org

Bulletin #21
Sierra House Recovery
January 22, 2019

At this time there is not a set date for return to Sierra House. We may be looking at spending the rest of the year at Al Tahoe, especially for the 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. Our plan is to settle in at South Tahoe Middle School and Al Tahoe and make the most of where we are.

Here is a brief update on the fire recovery effort:

- Upper pod abatement is almost complete.
- MPR demo to start soon.
- PE room is being cleaned out right now so they can drop ceiling and determine if walls can stay or must go.

Admin has been cleaned out and they are getting ready to drop the ceiling and will determine if walls can stay or must go.

- Electricians have been in to bid on electrical room equipment removal and restoration.
- Encapsulation of Portables HVAC ducting and coils is complete.
- Architect visited to finalize scope (as best we can at this point). DSA appointment has been pushed back due to rolling reading room structural into scope. This will not delay reconstruction as he has already specified the replacement products (for Admin and MPR) and Belfor can order them.
- Architect would like to propose a different tile scheme for the restoration of the restrooms. It will be more similar to the HS restrooms
- Conference call with insurance, architect, DSA inspector to start penciling out a schedule. Still need to know if PE room and Admin walls will stay or go.
- Asbestos mastic was found under the walk-off mats at the entry and exit of main lobby. Will need to be abated.
- Belfor is looking for the most efficient ways to demo/access areas around the burnt space to minimize invasive demolition that will delay construction.
- Architect has discussed with the DSA a method of reinforcing the burnt ceiling rafters to minimize invasive, time intensive reconstruction of the burnt area. We should have approval within 2 weeks for the carpenters to begin repairing that space.

As far as communication, since Remind is no longer working with Verizon customers, it is more important than ever that all parents are signed up with correct Aeries account information so that school and classroom communications can go through this platform. All teachers have access to Aeries Communication and all families receiving this email are already linked to this platform.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes
Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP Recovery Project Manager 543-2219 ext. 1065
sbrennan@ltusd.org

Bulletin 19
Sierra House Recovery
January 11, 2019

This is an important information update regarding school on Monday. In consideration of traffic congestion issues, we have made some minor adjustments to the school schedule, so please read this bulletin carefully:

To help facilitate a smoother parent pick-up and drop off, and bus transportation system, school hours will be reverted back to last year's schedule of 9:10-3:20. This will not affect bus stop pick-up/drop-off times.

Parent Drop-off:

All students who eat breakfast at school should be dropped off at Al Tahoe at 8:30 for breakfast and recess. Students in grades K-3 who do not eat breakfast should be dropped off at Al Tahoe between 8:50 - 9:10. Students in grades 4-5 who do not eat breakfast should be dropped off at STMS between 8:50 and 9:10 AM at the library wing entrance to the school, adjacent to the bus garage. Enter the parking lot roadway entrance near the track & field, on the east side of the school, off Al Tahoe Blvd., **or** drop off in front of the school on the south side of the school. Utilizing these two entrances will reduce traffic congestion.

If you are parking and walking in to visit your child's classroom at STMS, please park near the tennis courts on the north side of the campus and walk through the main entrance, check-in, and follow the signs to the library wing. We will have several people out to greet students and parents and show them to their classrooms.

Bus Drop-off:

All bus riders will arrive at Al Tahoe at 8:35 AM for breakfast and/or recess. Grades 4-5 will be transported by bus to STMS at 9:00 AM.

Parent Pick-up:

After school pick ups for grades K-3 will begin at Al Tahoe at 3:10. If you have a 4-5 sibling, continue on to STMS for a 3:20 pickup.

After school pick ups for grades 4-5 at STMS will begin at 3:20 in the front of the school. You may line up in the traffic circle or you may park near the tennis courts to walk up and pick up your child. Dr. Tarwater will be there to help direct you through the traffic circle. Students will be escorted to the front of the school by campus security and teachers.

Bus Pick-up:

4th - 5th busses will be picked up at STMS outside of the library at 3:20. Teachers and campus security will be present to assist with loading.

K-3 Students will be picked up at Al Tahoe at 3:28.

4-5 Boys & Girls Club students will get off the bus at 3:28 at Al Tahoe.

Special Needs bussing: Drop off at Al Tahoe: #32 will arrive and drop off at 9:05 (including 2 wheelchair students) Take Home Bus #34 will load at 3:00 from the bus circle and depart by 3:10. (including 2 wheelchair students)

Summary:

Before School:

Al Tahoe drop off 8:30-9:10AM

STMS drop off 8:50-9:10AM

All bussers dropped off at Al Tahoe regular time (8:35AM) will eat breakfast and/or recess.

4th and 5th grade bussed to STMS at 9:00AM

After school:

K-3rd Parent Pickups: *begin at 3:10 at Al Tahoe*

4th and 5th Parent pickups begin at 3:20 in the **front** of STMS in traffic circle

4th and 5th bussers and Boys and Girls Club members picked up at 3:20 and driven to Al Tahoe

3:28 drop off 4th and 5th Boys and Girls Club members and pick up K-3rd bussers

All bus routes and times remain the same as they have been all year.

Kid Zone will be operating from 7:30-8:30 every day. See Shandi for more information on Kid Zone registration.

Please be aware that Morning Wake and Skate has been cancelled until further notice. We apologize if this is an inconvenience, but we are working through logistics on this end as well.

Thank you in advance for being so flexible and cooperative. It's only through your caring and support that we can make this work for our kids!

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes

Sierra House Principal

While Sierra House Elementary School is under repair from the fire and subsequent smoke damage, we are working diligently to maximize learning and continue the integrity of our high quality academic programs. As repair work progressed over the winter break, it became clear the timeline is longer than anticipated. We are looking to utilize many of our district resources to accommodate a full day schedule for all of our students until all work is completed. We are excited to be able to run Sierra House classes from 9:00 AM until 3:10 PM for all students beginning Monday, January 14th. Kindergarten, first, second, third grades and our SDC classes will all be held at the AI Tahoe campus. Fourth and fifth grade classes will be held on the campus of South Tahoe Middle School (STMS). STMS principal John Simons has worked closely with the district and Sierra House to ensure a smooth transition for our students and staff. The district has set up a "school within a school"; meaning we are able to maintain the separation of the elementary school from the middle school. Our Sierra House 4th and 5th grade classes will be held in six classrooms in the STMS library/science wing. As the former assistant principal at STMS and a teacher of 25 years at the site, I am very confident that our Sierra House students will have a quality learning environment on this campus.

Each paragraph below will address a different logistical area for the transition of our 4th and 5th grade students.

4th/5th Schedule:

Sierra House students who are bussed to school will be dropped off at the AI Tahoe site in time for breakfast and morning recess with all the other Sierra House students. They will then be escorted to STMS in order to start class at 9:00 AM. All students will be in self-contained classrooms. Recess will be held outside (weather permitting) while STMS students are in class. If the weather is inclement, they will have indoor recess in their classroom with their teacher. There will be a separate lunch for our 4th and 5th graders.

STMS begins at 7:45 AM and ends at 1:55 PM (except for Wednesdays when they dismiss at 12:55 for staff collaboration days). Our students will not be on campus when STMS students arrive and they will be in class when STMS students depart. Sierra House students will not be allowed in the halls during passing periods.

Kindergarten-3rd schedules

All kindergarten, first, second and third graders and all SDC students will attend school on the AI Tahoe site from 9:00 until 3:10.

***Sierra House and STMS schedules are attached to this document.

Transportation:

All Sierra House students will be dropped off at the AI Tahoe campus for breakfast and morning recess. They will then be transported to STMS to arrive at class by 9:00. If you are dropping off your 4th or 5th grade student, you may drop them off past the entrance to the track between 8:50 and 9:00. We will have STMS security meet the students at the gate and students will go directly to their classroom. After 9:10, the gate will be locked and students will need to be dropped off at the front entrance and check in with the office staff to be escorted to their classroom.

After school, busses will pick up Kindergarten - 3rd grade students at Al Tahoe at 3:05 and proceed to STMS to pick up 4th and 5th graders at 3:10. The busses will line up parallel to the STMS wing where our classes are located. All busses will depart from STMS by 3:20.

Parent pick ups for kindergarten through third grade will remain at the Al Tahoe site. Parent pick ups of fourth and fifth graders will be at the front of STMS from 3:10-3:20.

Nursing:

Karen Tucker is the wonderful full time nurse at STMS. She will be available for any student on the STMS campus. She is also there to deliver any medications required by 4th and 5th grade students. She and Esther King communicate closely and will continue to do so as we run this "school within a school" model. Esther King will be full time on the Al Tahoe campus.

Early Pickup:

If your student has a doctor appointment or other reason to leave campus during the school day, they will be paged and brought to the front office for pick-up.

Discipline and Administrative Support:

I will continue to work as principal for the 4th and 5th graders located on the STMS campus. All questions and concerns should be directed to me via the Sierra House phone (530) 318-1517. I was the assistant principal at STMS for 4 years and spent the majority of my teaching career there as well. I understand the school and can answer any questions you may have.

Security:

STMS campus security monitor, Ryan Wallace, will be stationed in the 4th/5th grade hall of STMS while we are on campus. He will have a desk located directly across from the bathrooms located in this hallway. He will be located here to ease student and parent concerns. His job is to make sure there are no negative interactions between any students in the hallways or bathrooms. All Sierra House students will be in class during STMS passing periods. Miguel Tapia is a second campus security assistant at STMS who will monitor arrival and departure of busses and lunch time.

Kid Zone:

Kid Zone will continue to operate from the Al Tahoe campus for all students K-5. Kid Zone runs from 7:30-8:30 every morning.

Parent Open House and Meeting:

All parents are invited to come to class with their student and check out the classrooms at STMS at 9:00 on Monday, January 14th. We will have a parent orientation meeting at 9:20 in the STMS library in order to answer any questions. If you cannot make that meeting, we will hold a second meeting Monday evening at 5:30 p.m. in the STMS library.

As always, I thank you for your flexibility, patience, and understanding as we have worked through this recovery process. Every one of us looks forward to returning to our Sierra House campus. The beauty of Sierra House is that WE are all Sierra House. We are not defined by a building, we are defined by our excellent teachers, our strong support staff, our families and our students. Together we will make the most

of each day, advance our children's academic, physical, and social well being as we bring Caring, Organization, Responsibility, and Empowerment to the forefront of our educational process.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to getting settled into our schedules and routines.

Respectfully,
Karin Holmes
Principal, Sierra House Elementary School

Bulletin #17

Sierra House Recovery Bulletin January 8, 2019

Hello Sierra House Families,

This is the latest update regarding the Sierra House recovery plan. Yesterday the district was notified by Belfor that we need to look at a longer term plan before Sierra House can be re-opened. The scope of work has expanded now to include the removal of insulation inside the walls in the multi-purpose room and replacement of the ceiling in the administrative office. At this point, there are no specific dates tied to reopening Sierra House. This was not the news we were hoping to hear, but it is the reality of our situation.

In consideration of the indeterminate amount of time for the reopening of Sierra House, it will be most beneficial to the students and families to return to full instructional days. Therefore, the district will establish a "school within a school" model at South Tahoe Middle School for 4th and 5th graders in their own wing near the library. All 4th and 5th graders will be relocated to this wing in order to provide full-day classrooms and instruction, between the two campuses, for all grade levels. We are working on the logistics and will send a detailed letter home tomorrow.

All Sierra House students will return to the 9:00-3:10 school day starting on Monday, January, 14th. Kindergarten through third grade will continue to be on the Al Tahoe campus, and 4th/5th grade at STMS. I will continue to provide leadership and support at both campuses. More information will be provided on Wednesday, January 9, 2018.

While we do not have all the answers right now, please feel free to contact me with concerns or questions regarding the upcoming changes.

Repectfully, Karin Holmes Sierra House Principal

Bulletin #16

January 5, 2019

Sierra House Recovery

Hello Sierra House Families,

I hope this Winter Break has given you a chance to relax a little bit. It was a much needed break for all of us! Below is an update of the work that has been going on at Sierra House. At this time, we will follow the same schedule as we did before break Kindergarten thru second grade will attend school from 9-1 and third through fifth grade will attend from 12-4. Our special Day classes will continue to run as follows: Mr. Cromwell's class is from 8-noon and Ms. Lafferty's class from noon to 4. All classes will be at the Al Tahoe campus. Please know how much we appreciate your patience and flexibility as we work hard to provide a quality education for your children every day.

The plan is to send weekly updates to keep you apprised of the work that has been completed and the next steps.

Work that Belfor has completed over the Winter Break: All corridors have been abated. Lower pod is being cleaned again, including duct cleaning in each room and is sealed off from other areas of the school so there is no cross contamination as abatement and construction continue. HVAC units for portables have been cleaned. The admin office is being prepped for ceiling demo. Work that Belfor has slated for next week: MPR demolition and reconstruction Admin ceiling demo and replacement Upper pod abatement began today (January 4th) and will go 7 days a week until complete.

Any questions about the schedule can be directed to Shandi Ashmore at (530) 318-1517. A sincere thank you to Tori Polly who was covering for Shandi for the past three months. She did an amazing job as our school secretary! Thank you Tori and welcome back Shandi:)

Any questions or concerns regarding the progress of cleaning and reconstruction should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP Recovery Project Manager 543-2219 ext. 1065 sbrennan@ltusd.org

Phone: 530-543-2327
Fax: 530-543-2330

Bulletin #15

Sierra House Recovery

We moved out of Sierra House today and are ready for classes to resume on Monday with the split schedules on the Al Tahoe Campus. Please review the schedule and call 318-1517 if you have any questions. Schedules are attached to this **bulletin**.

In quick summary:

Monday December, 17 - Thursday, December 20th

Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade attend class from 9:00-1:00

2nd, 3rd and 4th grade attend class from 12:00-4:00

FRIDAY DECEMBER 21st **ALL students (K-5)** are to arrive at Al Tahoe for class at 9:00. Our annual Holiday Concert will be from 9:30-10:30 and all families are invited! From 10:30-12:00 we will be doing holiday stations with our students. Lunch will go from 12:00-1:00 and students will be released at 1:15.

Many parents are concerned with academic integrity of class time with the shortened day. Please know that our teachers are very aware of the state standards and what they need to cover.. We will be focusing on essential standards across the curriculum and it is important that students attend every day of class. We have a specific number of instructional minutes and instructional days that are required by the state for the school year. The district has applied for a waiver of the day missed after the fire and we will adjust minutes when we return to Sierra House to meet the requirement for number of minutes.

Any questions about the schedule can be directed to Tori Polly at 318-1517

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes

Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP

Recovery Project Manager

543-2219 ext. 1065

sbrennan@ltusd.org

Karin Holmes

Principal, Sierra House Elementary School

1709 Remington Trail
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530-543-2327 ext. 1552

Phone: 530-543-2327
Fax: 530-543-2330

Bulletin #14

Sierra House Recovery

Today at Sierra House Belfor continued to mobilize Connex containers and workers to begin the clean up process. Premier Environmental performed another round of air quality tests this afternoon.

The district has been in close conversations with Belfor regarding the scope of the work needed to get Sierra House cleaned and operating at 100% capacity. Belfor cannot commit to the scope of work until the crews get into their job, so the plan is to prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

As of today, the plan is to hold all classes at the Al Tahoe campus on the split schedule from December 17 through February 15. Paperwork was sent home with all students today to help clarify schedules and bussing. We are asking families to send back the second page of the packet with all students tomorrow. This two sided page addresses the plan for your child regarding pick up and take home routines. Thank you in advance for filling that out tonight and returning it tomorrow. If your student was not at school today, please check our website at <http://sierrahouse.ltusd.org/> for the information.

If you have any questions regarding schedules, please do not hesitate to contact Tori Polly at the Sierra House front office at 543-2327.

Any questions or concerns regarding the recovery process should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes

Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP
Recovery Project Manager
543-2219 ext. 1965
sbrennan@ltusd.org

SIERRA HOUSE ELEMENTARY
1709 Remington Trail
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

SIERRA HOUSE ELEMENTARY
1709 Remington Trail
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: 530-543-2327
Fax: 530-543-2330

Bulletin #13

Sierra House Recovery

Today Belfor continued to drop Connex containers on the upper pod blacktop. Tomorrow they will begin cleaning classroom contents in the upper pod.

All third grade classes attended class at the Al Tahoe site today.

The schedules for December 17th-January 11th are attached to this **bulletin**. There are schedules for both grades K-2 and 3-5.

Please note that Friday, December 21st is a minimum day. All K-5 students will attend class from 9:00-1:25. Our Holiday concert is set for 9:30-10:30. All families are invited to attend.

In addition, bus schedules are attached for mid-day K-2 take home and 3-5 pick up. Morning stops will remain the same. Afternoon take homes will have the same stops, but times will be adjusted. The transportation department has been notified that we will need bussing for students who live in the Fair Meadow and High Meadow neighborhoods. I will forward updated schedules as soon as they are completed.

Any Questions regarding the logistics of student schedules should be directed to Tori Polly at 543-2327.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes
Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP
Recovery Project Manager
543-2219 ext. 1065
sbrennan@ltusd.org

This announcement included a file attachment. Click the link below to view.

[Bulletin%20%2313%20bus%20schedule.xlsx](#)

[Bulletin%20%2313%20K-2.docx](#)

[Bulletin%20%2313%203-5.docx](#)

**SIERRA HOUSE ELEMENTARY
1709 Remington Trail
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150**

SIERRA HOUSE ELEMENTARY
1709 Remington Trail
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Phone: 530-543-2327
Fax: 530-543-2330

Bulletin #12

Sierra House Recovery

Today Belfor started bringing their Conex trailers to the upper pod playground. At this time they have 5 containers and trailer in place. They will continue to add to this storage configuration throughout the week.

Tomorrow, December 12th, our third grade classes will begin to be bussed over to Al Tahoe from the Sierra House site. They will come to Sierra House as they do every day and they will get on the bus at the start of school (9:00). They will follow their regular class schedule and eat lunch at the Al Tahoe Site. You may pick your 3rd grader up from Al Tahoe at 3:10 or you can pick them up at Sierra house at 3:25. Bussers will continue on to their correct bus once at Sierra House and all students who attend Boys and Girls Club will simply remain at the Al Tahoe Site.

Monday, December 17th, the entire Sierra House campus will move over to the Al Tahoe site and we will begin our split schedule days. Please remember that free childcare will be provided by the Boys and Girls Club between 9 and 3:25 if this split schedule does not work with your schedule. **The Sierra House campus will be closed beginning Monday, December 17th and no students are to be dropped off or picked up at Sierra House. All transportation will be to and from The Al Tahoe site.** Our transportation department is working on final adjustments to the bus schedules and we will forward those to you as soon as they are complete.

The schedule for students is as follows:

- ☐ Kid zone drop off 7:30 main entrance
- Student drop off begins at 8:30
- **Kindergarten first and second grades:**
 - o School begins for at 9:00 and classes run until 1:00. Lunch will be served from 12:30-1:00.
- **Third, Fourth and Fifth grades:**
 - o School begins at 12:00 with lunch being served. Classes run until 4:00.

We will have a secretary at the front desk at all times.

The phone number for Sierra House School on the Al Tahoe site is: 530-318-1517.

To call us at the Sierra House campus until Friday 12/14, our number is still 530-543-2327

If you want to call the Boys and Girls Club, their number is 530-542-0838.

Bob Grant is the acting principal on the AI Tahoe site this week.

Esther King, our school nurse will be working at the AI Tahoe site.

Any Questions regarding the logistics of student schedules should be directed to Tori Polly at 543-2327.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes
Sierra House Principal

Steve Brennan, PE, CEM, LEED AP, CBCP
Recovery Project Manager
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Tori Polly
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Bulletin #11

Sierra House Recovery

As we prepare for moving classes to the Al Tahoe campus, we want to assure all families that the campus is safe for all of our students and staff. There have been questions about lead in the water and the presence of asbestos in the school. The drinking fountain that tested positive for lead was removed from use in August of 2017. We will be providing 4 water bottle filling stations for all students. The other two locations that tested above the reportable limit are in the kitchen, which we will not be using to prepare food for our students.

The Al Tahoe school is regularly tested for friable asbestos on a three-year cycle to determine that all sources of asbestos are stable and contained. The AHERA three year testing was performed within the last 18 months. All sites, including Al Tahoe, tested safe.

Information regarding schedules and times for next week will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

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Sierra House Principal

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Bulletin #10

Sierra House Recovery

Belfor continues to develop their plan for school restoration and cleaning. In order to get in and do the job as needed, they require access to our entire school beginning Monday, December 17th. This access with no students or staff present will facilitate clean up and reconstruction so that the job can be completed thoroughly and with integrity.

In order to allow this access and continue with school for our students, we are going to move all of our students and staff to Al Tahoe Elementary School (Boys and Girls Club Site). In order to fit in that facility, we will be running split days for the week of December 17th-21st. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders will be in class from 9:00-1:00 p.m. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes will attend school from 12:00-4:00 p.m.. All students on site will be served breakfast and lunch. Details regarding drop off, pick up, and bussing will be sent on Monday. In partnership with the District and our local Boys and Girls Club we will be able to accommodate free childcare for the families that need it due to the split schedule. Please contact Tori in the front office (543-2327) if you believe you will need help with childcare, given the aforementioned schedule.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

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Sierra House Principal

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Bulletin #9

Sierra House Recovery Process

Today Premier Environmental Consulting was on campus to do another round of VOC air quality testing. We will post those results as soon as they are available.

The plan for our upper pod classes to move to the AI Tahoe campus is coming together. The acting principal at the site will be Mr. Bob Grant. A secretary will be on site along with a school nurse, reading intervention and RSP staff. Additional staff will be present to cover library and PE time as well as assist with classes. Lunches will be served on site. At the end of the day, parents will be able to pick up students at AI Tahoe, if they wish, or students can ride the bus back to Sierra House and complete their regular bus route. All bus stops will remain the same. Boys and Girls Club students will remain at the AI Tahoe Site at the end of the day.

At this time Belfor and Premier are putting together a proposal and timeline for remediation plans. As their plan is completed and approved by insurance, we will share the specifics.

The LTUSD Board meeting this evening approximately twenty-five people were in attendance; ten parents spoke and presented many well articulated points. The school board appreciated the input and listened to everything that was said.

Respectfully,
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Bulletin #8

Sierra House Recovery

At this time Belfor continues with remediation protocol per the report dated November 28, 2018. Additionally they are preparing specific deep-cleaning and reconstruction plans for the next phase. This includes scheduling, man power allocation, and material acquisition. Work will begin on Wednesday December 12th and will include the replacement of ceiling tiles and other porous materials; deep cleaning within the attic space; and restoration of the HVAC system and duct work in the source area, hallways, and restrooms. The goal is to complete the remediation and odor abatement prior to January 7th, when students return to school after the winter break.

In order to facilitate this plan in an expeditious manner, we will be moving all students from the upper pod (2nd and 3rd grade) to the Al Tahoe site beginning Wednesday, December 12th. **Pick-up and drop-off will remain at Sierra House so as to maintain consistency. As well, buses will continue as regularly scheduled.** Breakfast and morning recess will be conducted at Sierra House. Lunch will be served at the Al Tahoe school site. Please see the following daily schedule for grades 2 and 3:

Wednesday December 12th, Thursday, December 13th, and Friday, December 14th:
3rd grade bussed to Al Tahoe from Sierra House after breakfast and morning recess.

2nd grade bussed to Heavenly for skiing.

All students bussed back to Sierra House by 3:00 for 3:10 pick up/ bus ride home.

Monday December 17th and Tuesday December 18th:

2nd and 3rd grade students bussed to Al Tahoe from Sierra House after breakfast and morning recess. All students bussed back to Sierra House at 3:00 for 3:10 pick up/ bus ride home.

Wednesday December 19th and Thursday December 20th: 2nd and 3rd grade students bussed to Al Tahoe from Sierra House after breakfast and morning recess. All students bussed back to Sierra House by 2:00 for dress rehearsal/ Holiday performance. All students at Sierra House for 3:10 pick up/ bus ride home.

Friday, December 21st: 2nd and 3rd grade students bussed to Al Tahoe from Sierra House after breakfast and morning recess. All students bussed back to Sierra house by 1:05 for 1:15 for pick up/ bus ride home.

Parents will receive room assignments for this temporary relocation as soon as possible.

Please note that the restoration area will be fully contained as cleaning, resurfacing and replacing of the porous materials is conducted. Air filtering will continue throughout the school to continue to maintain the highest level of air quality.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes Sierra House Principal

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Sierra House Recovery

Bulletin #7

Sierra House had a Site Safety Team meeting this morning and we discussed the fire at length with Tim Alameda, Fire Chief with Lake Valley Fire. We discussed protocols for teachers moving forward with electrical outlets and power cord safety. Tomorrow we are continuing this discussion during our staff meeting with all staff.

Belfor's new project manager, Jim Aguiar did a building walk through to familiarize himself with the school and the prescribed protocols. He will be here every day going forward.

Four surface lift samples (settled dust and debris on flat surfaces), including a worst case from within the affected fire area, came back negative for asbestos. One remaining test is being analyzed, which is a soot sample. We expect results from this sample later this week.

We are holding an "After Action" process meeting on Monday afternoon at 4:00 at the Education Center Board room. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact Karin Holmes at Sierra House by this Friday.

Respectfully,

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Sierra House Principal

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Bulletin #6

Sierra House Recovery Process

At least four hours of air scrubbing in all rooms in the school was completed by opening of school this morning (Monday, 12/3)

Belfor has flown out a new project manager so that he can be dedicated full time to this recovery process. Belfor is following all stringent safety protocols in order to keep our students safe as they attend school. Please see the industrial protocol they are following (It is posted on the district website along with all bulletins and testing results).

Steve Brennan is working with the industrial hygienist to draft an explanation of posted test results. Steve Brennan is in contact with the LPA (district architect) to look at egress, electrical and available adult restroom facilities per capita.

Lake Valley Fire is drafting an egress analysis.

Additional air quality testing (TO-15) will be repeated periodically until all cleaning efforts are complete.

Respectfully,
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Sierra House Principal

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Bulletin #5

Sierra House Recovery,

Results from the air quality test came back negative for harmful substances in the air. School will be open tomorrow (Monday, December 3). Please visit www.ltusd.org under District-Public Notices for detailed test result information. The following is an email from Nate Seward, Industrial Hygienist:

"VOC sample results came in. As expected, the presence of various Volatile Organic Compounds were detected in each sample, however all concentrations were compared to regulatory OSHA Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) and/or Time Weighted Averages (TWAs) and found to be well below these regulatory levels. All lab results are provided in PPB (Parts per billion by volume).

Note: Many of the VOCs found are also found in over the counter house hold cleaning products and personal items (i.e. acetone, isopropyl alcohol, etc). These can also be in every day items used in schools, dry erase markers, sharpies, etc. A few of the VOCs found in the samples are also found in citrus odor masking agents and perfumes.....likely those used by Servpro during the deodorization process.

Nevertheless, I have no concerns related to these air sample results which were collected from Upper Pod (all classrooms), Portables 1-7, MPR, hallway and Staff offices and lower pod (all classrooms). Thanks

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Seward, PE, CIH

*EPA & IICRC Instructor (WRT & AMRT)
Professional Mechanical Engineer (M31978)
Certified Industrial Hygienist (9582 CP)
Certified Radon Tester #108180RT
Licensed Asbestos Abatement Consultant (I-1923)*

Premier Environmental Consulting (PEC)
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805.432.4888 Cell

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*Mold * Radon * Asbestos * Lead Paint* IAQ * Industrial Hygiene"*

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

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Bulletin #4

Sierra House Recovery Process,

Results from the air quality test came back negative for asbestos. Please visit www.ltusd.org under District-Public Notices for detailed test result information.

Any questions or concern should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

Karin Holmes
Sierra House Principal

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Bulletin #3

Sierra House Recovery Process,

This is to inform you that at 3:12 PM today we received notification that a door in the contained burn area tested positive for asbestos. This door was damaged by the fire department when entering the building. As a precautionary measure, air testing is currently under way to ensure continued air quality throughout the school building, with results expected by Sunday.

These results will include both the asbestos and VOC air sample testing.

Asbestos notification posters will be visible on the zippered doorways into the containment area to keep students and staff away from the possibly affected area. These posters must remain in place until the contained area has the subject door removed and the air in all spaces have been cleared. The contained area, which has been completely enclosed since the incident, is under negative air pressure and is being filtered through a HEPA filter. These are standardized procedures required by the EPA and OSHA who have been notified and who will be visiting for inspection and clearance next week.

Any questions or concern should be directed to Steve Brennan, Recovery Project Manager, who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

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Sierra House Principal

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Bulletin #2

Sierra House Recovery Process,

This is the second of the daily updates regarding the Sierra House fire restoration process. Today, air scrubbing has continued throughout the building and Air Quality sample canisters that test for detailed Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) were used to collect test samples beginning at 12:00. The results from these tests should be available Sunday night (barring any shipping delays to LA). If the results arrive on time, they will be provided to school staff and parents by 7am Monday morning.

The air quality testing being performed today used the EPA Air Method: Toxic Organics -15 (TO-15) which is designed to look for 74 different VOCs (Target Compounds List or TCL) using analysis by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GCMS). If a spike is detected in the GCMS study that does not match with one of the 74 VOCs in the TCL (unknown compound), the lab will work to identify the air component regardless. The testing is expected to identify any VOC, not just those on the TCL. A full report of all detected VOCs, their levels and acceptable limits (if applicable) will be provided to the district.

Additionally, the following protocols have occurred today (11/30):

1. The preliminary lead testing (XRF gun) show no lead in paint or tile in any of the affected areas. Final report due later today
2. Soot testing is delayed due to recent wildfires in CA. The sample has been sent to the lab. Hopefully we will see results late next week (best case scenario)
3. Additional asbestos tests are in the lab and being analyzed as of 11am this morning.
4. DSA field personnel will be on site this afternoon to survey building
5. The industrial hygienist cleaning protocol draft report has been delivered and is attached to the bulletin.

As far as classrooms, all grade level classrooms are in full use; only our reading intervention classes have been displaced. All reading intervention classes are running on full schedule and meeting in staff work areas. All alarm systems are in good working condition and were serviced and cleared by SIMPLEX on Tuesday, November 13th prior to any students returning to school.

Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan Recovery Project Manager who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,

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Sierra House Principal

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Bulletin #1

Sierra House Recovery Process

This is the first of the daily updates we will be sending out regarding the fire restoration process. We understand that everyone is anxious to see the results of the cleaning and testing efforts. As of 1pm today (11/29) Premier (Industrial Hygienist) is in the final stages of refining their cleaning protocol, which we hope to send out in tomorrow's update. Belfor (Fire Restoration) has contained all directly affected areas and are running air scrubbers (carbon filters) around the clock in these spaces, as well as the upper pod core space. All remaining spaces in the school will receive proactive air scrubber treatment by Sunday night. Air Quality sample canisters have been ordered for detailed Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) testing tomorrow (Friday 11/30). The results from these tests should be available Sunday night (barring any shipping delays to LA). If the results arrive on time, they will be provided to school staff and parents by 7am Monday morning.

The testing being performed will use EPA Air Method: Toxic Organics -15 (TO-15) which is designed to look for 74 different VOCs (Target Compounds List or TCL) using analysis by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GCMS). If a spike is detected in the GCMS study that does not match with one of the 74 VOCs in the TCL (unknown compound), the lab will work to identify the air component regardless. The testing is expected to identify any VOC, not just those on the TCL. A full report of all detected VOCs, their levels and acceptable limits (if applicable) will be provided to the district.

Steve Brennan has been in contact with the DSA and will have an inspector up next week to walk the site and look at the progress and process and give feedback. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Steve Brennan Recovery Project Manager who is coordinating with Belfor and Premier.

Respectfully,
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