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June 26, 2002

Mr. Bernard P. Orlan  
 Director, Environmental Health & Safety  
 New York City Board of Education  
 28-11 Queens Plaza North  
 Long Island City, NY 11101-4008

**Re: Indoor Air Quality Assessment  
 High School of Economics and Finance (M833)  
 100 Trinity Place  
 New York, New York 10006  
 ATC Project No. 15-19125-0291**

Dear Mr. Orlan:

ATC Associates Inc. (ATC) is pleased to provide this report of indoor air quality (IAQ) measurements collected on June 25, 2002 at the referenced school. The New York City Board of Education (BOE) requested these measurements as part of a program to determine if acceptable indoor air quality is being maintained.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

ATC conducted this evaluation to assess the basic parameters of temperature, relative humidity, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO).

Total volatile organic compounds (TVOCs) and respirable particulates were also measured.

Mariana Medinets, Environmental Technician of ATC's New York City office, conducted the assessment. ATC's findings and conclusions are based on a visual inspection, real-time environmental measurements and conditions present in the school at the time of the assessment.

ATC measured temperature, relative humidity, CO<sub>2</sub> and CO with a Q-Trak® Model 8551, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of respirable particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) with a Dust-Trak® Aerosol Monitor Model 8520, manufactured by TSI, Inc.

ATC measured concentrations of TVOCs using a RAE Systems, Inc. MiniRAE® photoionization detector (PID).

The assessment was performed consistent with generally accepted indoor air quality assessment practices. As with all such assessments, there were inherent limitations created by constraints of time, operational and work practice variability, variations in indoor air quality parameters and sampling and analytical accuracy.

The results of the sampling represent conditions found on the dates of the survey and may not represent conditions found at other times. The information presented in this report should be used by the BOE as a guide to assess the need for further improvements in current indoor air quality control activities.

### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Currently, there are no regulatory standards for indoor air quality in non-industrial buildings, such as offices and schools. For the real-time data collected, ATC uses the commonly accepted guidelines cited in the following publications:

- *Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality (ASHRAE 62-1999)*, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE);
- *Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy (ASHRAE 55-1992)*;
- *Industrial Hygienists Guide to Indoor Air Quality Investigations (1993)*, American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).

Table 1 lists target guidelines for the parameters that ATC evaluated during this investigation. Meeting one, some, or all of the listed values does not assure that acceptable indoor air quality will be achieved at all times.

**TABLE 1**  
**TARGET GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR AIR QUALITY PARAMETERS EVALUATED**

| PARAMETER                                    | TARGET LEVEL                                                              | AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )            | <700 parts per million (ppm) above background level                       | ASHRAE 62                                                   |
| Carbon Monoxide (CO)                         | 9 ppm                                                                     | ASHRAE 62 (adopted from USEPA NPAAQS)                       |
| Respirable Particulates (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) | 65 micrograms per cubic meter of air (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 24-hour average | USEPA NPAAQS                                                |
|                                              | 40 µg/m <sup>3</sup> 24-hour average                                      | USEPA – Recommendation for children / sensitive individuals |
| Temperature                                  | Summer: 73-79°F at 50% RH<br>Winter: 68-75°F at 50% RH                    | ASHRAE 55                                                   |
| Relative Humidity                            | 30 – 60 %                                                                 | ASHRAE 55                                                   |
| Total Volatile Organic Compounds (TVOC)      | 1 ppm                                                                     | AIHA                                                        |

USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency  
 NPAAQS = National Primary Ambient-Air Quality Standard  
 AIHA = American Industrial Hygiene Association

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REAL-TIME ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS

ATC collected one hundred and six (106) sets of real-time environmental measurements consisting of ninety-four (94) inside the school building and twelve (12) outdoors. Field data sheets are found in the Attachment. Readings were collected in the morning and in the evening. The results are described below.

Temperature

Indoor dry bulb temperature measurements ranged from 75.1 °F to 83.6 °F. Fifty (50) of the indoor measurements for temperature were above the range of 73 °F to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the summer season. The outdoor temperature measurements ranged from 82.2 °F to 86.1 °F.

Relative Humidity

The relative humidity indoors ranged from 38.0 percent to 52.1 percent. All of the indoor measurements for relative humidity were within ASHRAE recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort. The outdoor relative humidity ranged from 47.8 to 53.6 percent.

Carbon Dioxide Concentration

Carbon dioxide concentrations indoors ranged from 512 ppm to 836 ppm. All of the indoor measurements for CO<sub>2</sub> were within the ASHRAE Standard 62-1999 recommended maximum concentration of <700 ppm above the background level. The outdoor (background) CO<sub>2</sub> concentration was 601 ppm. Therefore, the maximum acceptable level of CO<sub>2</sub> at this location was 1301 ppm (background level + 700 ppm). Levels above the recommended maximum do not indicate a health risk. Carbon dioxide measurements are used as an indicator of available outdoor air. The primary source of CO<sub>2</sub> indoors is occupant respiration.

Carbon Monoxide Concentration

Carbon monoxide concentrations indoors ranged from 1 ppm to 2 ppm. These concentrations were within the NPAAQS/ASHRAE guideline of 9 ppm. The outdoor CO concentrations ranged from 0 ppm to 2 ppm.

Respirable Particulates (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

Respirable particulate concentrations\* indoors ranged between 4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 55 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with an average of 14 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. None of the indoor measurements for respirable particulates were above the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter. Five (5) of the indoor measurements were above the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for sensitive individuals and children. The respirable concentration outdoors ranged between 26 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 71 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with an average of 54 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

\* The measurements made during this assessment were instantaneous readings, the NPAAQS is a 24-hour average.

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### TVOC Concentration

TVOCs were not detected anywhere inside the building (0.0 ppm). The outdoor TVOC concentration was also 0.0 ppm.

### OBSERVATIONS

During this assessment, ATC noted the following:

- The interior of the building appeared clean and free of dust and debris;
- The building was occupied at the time of the assessment;
- No smoke odor was detected in the building;

### FINDINGS

Based on the real-time measurements, the following findings are presented:

1. Indoor concentrations of CO, CO<sub>2</sub> and TVOCs were within applicable standards and guidelines.
2. Fifty (50) of the indoor measurements for temperature were above the range of 73 °F to 79°F (at 50 percent relative humidity) recommended by ASHRAE Standard 55-1992 during the summer season.
3. All of the indoor measurements for relative humidity were within ASHRAE recommended range of 30 to 60 percent for occupant comfort.
4. Nine of the indoor measurements for respirable particulates were above the NPAAQS of 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> 24-hour average concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in aerodynamic diameter. Five (5) of the indoor measurements were above the USEPA recommended concentration of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for sensitive individuals and children.

It is our pleasure to provide these indoor air quality services to the New York City Board of Education. If you have any questions about this report, please call (212) 353-8280, ext. 211 or 212.

Sincerely,  
**ATC ASSOCIATES INC.**

  
Yiannis Efstathiou  
Senior Project Manager

Attachment