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City close to inking WTC

Stuy parents still air wary

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Parents looking for answers about possibly harmful levels of dust at Stuyvesant High School didn't get them last night and were told instead it was up to them to decide if their kids were safe in class.

City officials and health experts who met with some 400 members of the school's Parents Association insisted that all that can be done to make Stuyvesant safe is being done and suggested tests showing airborne contaminants may be inaccurate.

Outraged parents retorted that they didn't believe what they were being told and demanded the city do more to protect their kids.

"Clearly we don't have the answers," frustrated Parents Association board member David Newman said during the often contentious three-hour meeting at the school, which is on Chambers St. at the edge of Ground Zero.

Info 'unacceptable'

"But just as clear is that this is not an individual question" that should be tossed in the laps of parents, he said.

"This is a public high school and this is a public health issue," he said.

Angry board president Marilena Christodoulou branded the information provided by private doctors, the federal Environmental Protection Agency and Board of Education members on the panel of experts "unacceptable" and declared "we take exception to it."

The meeting was called after an expert hired by the parents to analyze tests conducted by the Board of Ed said he believes there are unacceptable levels of dust in the school.

Symptoms short-term?

Results varied, but seven of 12 tests taken indoors between Oct. 9 and 24 showed unacceptably high levels of airborne dust.

Outdoor readings reached unacceptable levels six times.

Students have complained of headaches, nosebleeds, coughs and other problems, but health officials said these ailments are likely — but not guaranteed — to be short-term.

"You can't make a blanket statement for every child," said Dr. George Thurston, a professor at the New York University School of Medicine.

"Each child is an individual, but I don't see anything that says don't send your child here yet."



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