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June 29, 1971

Hector Garcia, M.D.
1315 Bright Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

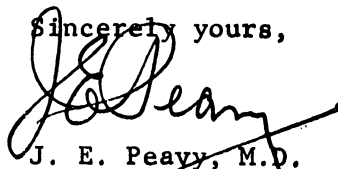
Dear Dr. Garcia:

In response to your recent telegram, I have had inspections made of the Stephen F. Austin Elementary, De Zavala Elementary and Southgate Elementary Schools in Corpus Christi.

The report of these inspections and our recommendations have been forwarded to W. R. Metzger, M.D., Director, Corpus Christi-Nueces County Health Department, for his consideration and use.

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the report for your information.

Sincerely yours,


J. E. Peavy, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Corpus Christi Independent School District

June 1971

In cooperation with the Corpus Christi-Nueces County Health Department and school officials, an environmental health inspection was conducted in the three elementary schools listed below on June 8, 1971.

The inspections were made by Mr. Jimmie D. Dickens, R. S., State Health Department, Austin; Mr. Richard I. Hinman, R. S., State Health Department Region V office, Corpus Christi; Mr. A. L. Cock, P. E., and Miss Anne Hubbard, R. S., Corpus Christi-Nueces County Health Department.

Environmental health conditions under actual operating circumstances could not be completely evaluated in many categories since school was out for summer vacation. Storm damage from Hurricane Cecila was also considered in our evaluations.

Our inspection reports indicate that major overall repair and improvements including outside and inside painting, replacement of all broken windows, roof repair, ceiling replacement and repair, floor repair, water damage repair, etc. is needed at all three schools. Since immediate action is apparently planned and in some instances underway, we will not comment on these items except to recommend that all the necessary work on these items be completed as early as possible.

General housekeeping in the kitchens, cafeterias, and restrooms in all schools has been satisfactory although proper maintenance and cleaning has been difficult due to the need for painting and repair of floors and walls. Extra housekeeping effort is required in all areas of the buildings due to the age and condition of floors and walls in these buildings.

Sanitation, food handling, and dishwashing in kitchens is regularly inspected by the Corpus-Christi-Nueces County Health Department, and has been generally reported satisfactory in the past. Cafeteria employees are licensed as food handlers by the local health department.

Based on the inspections, the following recommendations for corrections are offered:

Stephen F. Austin Elementary School

1. Roaches and mice should be eliminated through the proper use of approved insecticides and rodenticides. Good sanitation practices will also help control insect and rodent populations.
2. Windows of restrooms should be screened to prevent fly entry.
3. Some of the water fountains observed were not of the approved type and should be replaced with the approved type angle jet fountain heads that prevent water from falling back onto orifices.
4. Light fixtures and windows need cleaning to improve natural and artificial light. Classrooms should provide a minimum light meter reading of 30 foot-candles.
5. Hot water for hand washing is recommended. Only cold water is available.
6. Desk arrangement in several classrooms may result in a glare problem from outside windows. Desks should be arranged to prevent students from looking directly into a strong light or source of glare.
7. One of the most serious problems observed during the inspection was the continued use of gas space heaters. Most of these heaters have faulty venting, are not controlled by thermostats, and present possible safety hazards. These heaters should not be used and should be replaced with approved heaters that are properly vented, controlled by thermostats, and equipped with automatic gas shut-off valves. It was observed that some new properly designed heating equipment has been installed.
8. Broken glass (probably remaining from hurricane damage) was observed on the play ground and should be removed.
9. Some storage rooms and closets contained litter, and materials in these rooms were improperly stored. Worthless materials should be removed and useable materials arranged for easy access on shelves.
10. Custodian storage rooms and chemical storage rooms were not properly maintained. Cleaning chemicals and other hazardous chemicals should be kept under lock when unattended.

11. A broken mirror was observed in one classroom and should be removed or replaced.

12. Some pressure operated water closets in restrooms were not equipped with vacuum breakers. All pressure operated water closets should be checked to insure that vacuum breakers are present to prevent possible contamination of the water supply if negative pressure conditions are encountered.

De Zavala Elementary School

1. Roaches and mice should be eliminated through the proper use of approved insecticides and rodenticides. Good sanitation practices will also help control insect and rodent populations.

2. Regular cleaning of galvanized cans and the storage area where cans are stored is recommended. Flies around the storage area were being attracted by garbage spills around the edges of the concrete slab. Proper sanitation in this area should control the fly population. Daily collection service is recommended.

3. Drinking fountains on the playground are in poor condition. General repair and replacement of fountain heads and drain pipes will be necessary.

4. Desk arrangement in several classrooms may result in a glare problem from outside windows. Desks should be arranged to prevent students from looking directly into a strong light or source of glare.

5. Light fixtures and windows need cleaning to improve natural and artificial light. Classrooms should provide a minimum light meter reading of 30 foot-candles.

6. Although a portion of the classrooms are centrally heated, some gas space heaters remain in operation and should be replaced with proper heating facilities. Faulty venting, absence of thermostats, and possible safety hazards from burns was also observed with these heaters.

7. At least one pressure type water closet was not equipped with a vacuum breaker. This water closet was located in a custodians' storage room. All pressure operated water closets should be checked to insure that vacuum breakers are present to prevent possible contamination of the water supply if negative pressure conditions are encountered.

8. All holes that would allow students to crawl under the buildings should be sealed to prevent possible safety hazards from this type entry.

9. Replacement of asbestos siding is needed on the interior lining of the furnace room.

10. Student desks in room Numbers 45 and 46 need refinishing.

11. Empty reproduction fluid containers (even though empty and washed) should receive proper disposal and should not be reused or stored in classrooms. These containers were observed in room Number 64.

12. Some storage rooms and closets contained litter, and materials in these rooms were improperly stored. Worthless materials should be removed and useable materials arranged for easy access on shelves.

13. Custodian storage rooms and chemical storage rooms were not properly maintained. Cleaning chemicals and other hazardous chemicals should be kept under lock when unattended.

14. Windows of restrooms should be screened to prevent fly entry.

15. The faulty electric outlet in the room previously used as a shop needs repair.

16. Lights in the hall near the cafeteria are not operable and should be repaired.

17. All fire extinguishers are due for the annual inspection.

18. The hall area near room Numbers 21-26 has insufficient lighting.

19. Hot water for hand washing is recommended. Only cold water is available.

Southgate Elementary School

1. Gas space heaters were observed to be in use in this school. Most of these heaters have faulty venting, are not controlled by thermostats, and present possible safety hazards. These heaters should not be used and should be replaced with approved heaters that are properly vented, controlled by thermostats, and equipped with automatic gas shut-off valves. It was observed that some new, properly designed, heating equipment has been installed.

2. Light fixtures and windows need cleaning to improve natural and artificial light. Classrooms should provide a minimum light meter reading of 30 foot-candles.

3. Since fly entry is possible through the cafeteria exhaust fan, the frame area should be screened.

4. The refrigerator in the kitchen is in poor condition and needs some repair or replacement. Condensate, or defrost water, collects inside the refrigerator and does not drain properly. Trays need cleaning and refinishing or replacement.

5. The wooden table in the kitchen should be replaced due to large cracks that make proper cleaning impossible.

6. The garbage storage area on the screened porch adjacent to the kitchen needs floor repairs to allow proper cleaning. Regular cleaning of galvanized cans and storage area is recommended. Screens also need repair to prevent fly entry.

7. Some storage rooms and closets contained litter, and materials in these rooms were improperly stored. Worthless materials should be removed and useable materials arranged for easy access on shelves.

8. Custodian storage rooms and chemical storage rooms were not properly maintained. Cleaning chemicals and other hazardous chemicals should be kept under lock when unattended.

9. Hot water for hand washing is recommended. Only cold water is available.

10. Windows of restrooms should be screened to prevent fly entry.

11. Water fountains need checking for proper stream adjustment.

12. Floor drains in some rest rooms were missing and should be replaced.

13. Holes were observed in the masonry walls of one girls' restroom and should be repaired.

14. A minimum light meter reading of 10 foot-candles and a maximum reading of 20 foot-candles was obtained in the library. The recommended reading is 30 foot-candles.

15. Broken glass (probably remaining from hurricane damage) was observed on the playground and should be removed.