

She'll Learn Later, School Board. Her Eyes are Frozen.

updated – 5 January 2018

One of my favorite scenes in a movie – National Lampoon Christmas Vacation – Audrey's body increasingly freezes as the family trudges through the snow in search of the perfect Christmas tree.



That scene is funny...kids at school in classrooms so cold that they are shivering is not. Is it just in the classrooms or are office staff suffering too? Did personnel fail to turn the heat back on over the weekend in preparation of students and staff returning? Is Phoebus the only school without heat? 1 Franklin Street claims the following – “According to our office of school operations and maintenance, all schools are operating with heat through the HVAC units.” Yet, the situation at Phoebus was described as – “Unsuitable learning conditions.” I’ve asked the principal about the situation but have not received a response. If I were to get a response, I’m guessing it would probably be like...“What are you talking about? It is downright balmy in the school! Space heaters in the classroom are just precautionary.” Then explain to me how that kid got his tongue stuck on his tuba mouthpiece? Just saying...

With the AC in the band area of the Phoebus school being down for two years, it would not surprise me if the office of school operations and maintenance did tell 1 Franklin Street that everything was hunky-dory. Every school could be without heat for all we know. Maybe in an attempt to lower the utility bill, heat was shutoff a little too long at the school. Phoebus has those open areas with tall ceilings and classroom without doors. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to know that flipping the on switch of the HVAC unit 30 minutes before the start of school wouldn't suffice. Are there standard operating procedures to cover the heating and cooling of the schools? Schools without adequate heating should be closed or delayed opening until an acceptable temperature can be reached...wouldn't you think?

Who is at fault...the school board. The school board is responsible for establishing a maintenance program as well as actually maintaining our schools (It is the law.) Like the AC that went unrepaired for years...due to their lack of interest (Apparently, I was not the only parent to complain to the board)...Phoebus kids will be required to trudge along like Audrey in substandard conditions.

Update (or lack of) – This was the second time I contacted the principal this school year. The first time was after the Winter Concert. I was upset that in this sparsely attended program, students were talking and yelling during the performances. Families moved and fellow students and adults attempted to quiet the rowdy students. I suggest that maybe she – the principal – could solicit staff and parent volunteers to monitor and keep the high school students from behaving disrespectfully. She – the principal – indicated that she was there and witnessed the inappropriate behavior and would use this situation as a teaching opportunity. She did not confront the students during the concert.

I still have not heard back from my email concerning the lack of heat in Phoebus High School and the possible early release of students (Now a moot point.). What could she say? Failing to address a parent's concerns with silence...