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ROXBURY

# Officials isolate vent system pulling odor into Roxbury school

Posted by Matt Rocheleau November 5, 2010 04:15 PM [E-mail](#) | [Print](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Work crews building a new entrance at a Roxbury school have isolated the building's ventilation units after complaints from staff and students that an odor, believed to be diesel exhaust fumes from heavy machinery, was being sucked inside, school officials said.

Construction on the school building began about a week-and-a-half ago at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science on Malcolm X Boulevard.

Since then, complaints sparked the school department to conduct air-quality tests, which showed "nothing of concern," said schools spokesman Matthew Wilder. But because the odor lingered, the portion of the ventilation system spreading the fumes into classrooms was blocked off.

"The fumes do smell, but by closing off the ventilation units on that side of the building the smell shouldn't enter the building," he said in an e-mail.

He said the school department is not aware of any illness as a result of the fumes.

The ongoing excavation phase of work should be completed within the next five days, he added.

A West Roxbury school was temporarily evacuated earlier this week when people inside began to feel ill, and WBZ recently ran an investigative piece that found potentially hazardous air quality in many Bay State schools.

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