

Facilities Checklist

By Deirdre Wilson-Redmond

School Management Functions: Finance, Resources, Structures

EDLP 6100

Professor Tamika DePass-Pipkin

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It was very enlightening to spend time walking through our building with Chief and discovering that even in a brand-new building in its second year of inhabitation, there are still things that need to be addressed, albeit very few.

Solar Panels (“Green Building”)

We are in one of two “green buildings” in my district with a dual electrical source. The two sources of energy are standard PSE & G and solar panels. This is actually a new phenomenon of power because if the electricity goes out, the back up solar powered energy immediately kicks in. A door near the Chief Custodian’s office reads “Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Thermal system.” A week prior to my meeting with the Chief, I saw him on the roof from my window making some adjustment to the solar panels.

Violations

Since there were zero violations in this brand-new building, I asked Chief to explain the process of creating and adhering to the checklist. I also asked him why there were 11 non-applicable items. He explained them each individually and I concluded from his response that a building of this nature was too new to really be suffering from any malfunctions, although last year, we had many elevator stalls where it was not in service for days. There was an electrical malfunction related to using our swipe cards only between certain hours to ride the elevators.

The first N/A marked off was in the category of “Current Licenses and Certificates” for an annual inspection report of the Department of Environmental Protection for the operation of a sewage treatment plant, were applicable, is available. We are a school which does not operate a sewage treatment plant, so obviously this does not apply. All other necessary certifications and licenses were current and on display in his office and the front entrance to the building, behind the security desk.

The next two 'not applicable' items came under the category of "Interior." One was subject to a district action to approve dual use, change of use, alternate toilet, temporary sites (TCU or rented facilities) and since the district owns this building, this one did not apply. The next one in this category was related to taking oversight of improperly storing hazardous materials.

For Section A, the areas of licensure and certification; exits and exteriors; interiors; and vocational/laboratories, the building received the required 100% compliance.

In section B under "Interior" since we have no interior courtyards in the design of the building, we received an X for doors leading to interior courtyards needing to be clearly marked: "Not an Exit." The items that received the most non-applicable markings were in the subcategory, Vocational/Laboratories and they were as follows: required space is available for the safe operation of machinery; mechanical and hydraulic automotive lifts have locking devices to hold them in the extended (open) position; floor(s) and aisles in all shops are free of slipping and tripping hazards; "Eye Hazard Area-Wear Your Eye Protection" signs are posted; the following additional safety measures are in place if welding operations are going-on (a. welding curtains are provided and are painted with a finish of low reflectivity, b. personal protective equipment [goggles, aprons, etc.] are provided); pressurized gas cylinders are secured...and valve protection caps are in place; and oxygen cylinders in storage are separated from fuel gas cylinders...or combustible materials a minimum distance of 20 feet.

In the event that the school had Carpentry or some other vocational shop class, all of these items would have been obtained and maintained by the principal and the chief custodian.

Summary

Last year, I had the great fortune of seeing the building in its brand-new, concrete ideation. At the ribbon cutting ceremony was exceptional to hear about all the people involved in its construction. Our school continues to be tweaked and adjusted right before our eyes. Things like door locks were provided to enable a teacher to lock a door from the inside, in the event of a lockdown. The faculty gets around and in and out of the building with their school ids. Certain doors are not accessible to most teachers from the outside.

Currently thermostats need adjusting in my room because sometimes it is too cold in my room and opening the windows throws off the thermostat gauge so doing so is frowned upon. Students have learned to adapt by wearing thick sweaters or jackets. After all, it's nice to even have central air conditioning. Last week we had a parking issue (since we are short of faculty parking) and teachers were parking in poor places making it difficult for delivery trucks to get by. Chief told the principal of the problem and she addressed it in an email blast to all of us. He does not regularly do walkthroughs with the principal, although he does make her aware of any necessary issues. Our Chief Custodian is a kind and shy man, who gets the job done!