

Fairport schools complain about odors from landfill

District says learning environment marred

Meghan Finnerty

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

High Acres Landfill in Perinton has been under scrutiny by residents for odors issues, and now Fairport Central School District has reported a compromised learning environment.

Fairport's Superintendent Brett Provenzano posted a letter to the school community Thursday.

"Recently, I heard concerns that the odors from the Waste Management (WM) High Acres Landfill are compromising the learning environment in classrooms at schools in proximity to the site," the letter said.

According to Provenzano, he discussed the issue with Perinton Supervisor Mike Barker and an official from Waste Management "to share concerns on behalf of our district and to reiterate our high expectations as a school community."

Waste Management is expected go be before the Perinton Conservation Board at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Perinton's current contract with Waste Management will be renegotiated starting in December 2018.

Waste Management has acknowledged an increase in intermittent odors but maintains the company is working to return to an acceptable standard.

In addition, entities and officials who have said they are monitoring the issue include the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation, state Sen. Rich Funke, R-Perinton, the towns of Macedon and Perinton and now Fairport schools.

"I am planning to meet with WM again next week to further process this issue and learn more about ways they plan to address our school community's concerns in a timely manner," Provenzano wrote. "As a district, we are committed to providing stable and consistent environments to optimize learning experiences. In partnership with the Town of Perinton, we acknowledge and care about this important issue and will continue to work toward resolving this concern."

MEFINNERTY@Gannett.com



Gas wells are monitored at High Acres to ensure wells are not blocked. The landfill collected double the amount of rain in 2017, which affected the operation of some of the wells. MAX SCHULTE/@MAXROCPHOTO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER