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# School seeks 2nd opinion

**■ Board calls for outside study of Southside's safety.**

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The Elmira school board wants to hire an independent contractor to conduct additional soil, air and water tests around Southside High School.

Board members said they don't doubt the findings released last week by the state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation, but they said Tuesday that they wanted a second opinion — possibly from a university, although none have been con-

tacted yet.

School Superintendent Laura E. Sherwood said Wednesday that she would approach officials from the city, the town of Southport and the county about whether they will share the costs of the additional tests.

Part of the school is in the city and part of it is in Southport.

"It's a community issue so I would like to see the school district, the city, the town and the county come together and perhaps share the funding," board member Paul A. Sartori said. "Ultimately, the crucial issue is not funding," he said. "The crucial issue is ... getting correct answers."

Southside sits on property that was home to manufacturing facilities for more than 100 years. The state began investigating possible environmental hazards in April after parents raised concerns about a possibly elevated rate of cancer among current and former Southside students.

See SCHOOL/8A

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