

Tests: State, county to share details Aug. 23

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Although the results of all the tests are not back yet, Kump said it was necessary to establish a date for a public meeting so that community members could have enough time to plan.

"I am trusting that the reports from the state will be completed," Kump said.

Kump said he hopes that the DEC will release the soil test results prior to the public meeting so that community members can review the information and formulate questions.

Air test results released last week showed that air inside the school did not pose a health risk.

Some parents and students say that they are anxious to hear what is said at the meeting and hope that their questions can be answered before school begins Sept. 6.

Linda Holly wants her daughter, Jennifer Schuck, to return to Southside for her senior year without worrying about carcinogens or developing illnesses.

Schuck, 17, had a benign tumor removed from her neck in September 1998 and stopped eating lunch and drinking water at school last spring after the cancer issue emerged.

"She's worried," said Holly, a nurse in the school district. "She checks herself for other things."

Schuck said some of her friends have gone to the doctor's office to be



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tested for cancer. One girl had her scalp biopsied after she noticed a bald spot on her head, Schuck said.

Schuck said she will attend the public meeting and has started coming up with questions to ask.

Linda Walton, a mother of two students at Southside, said she was happy to hear about the meeting and that her children would have a couple of weeks to digest the information before returning to school.

"I'm very interested in what happens and I'm trying to keep up with it," Walton said.

Elmira City School Superintendent Laura Sherwood said she hopes the meeting reassures the parents and the entire district that the school is safe. Sherwood has not received any information yet that would delay the school's opening.



SCHUCK



BROCKENBERRY

"I know that concerns will linger," Sherwood said. "We will continue to be vigilant to make sure we answer the students' and parents' questions."

However, one student would like to see this chapter of her school experience closed.

"I want to go back to school," said Justine Brockenberry, 15, who will be a sophomore. "I'm not really worried about it. Someone needs to say, 'This is causing cancer.' If not, then I guess we have to trust them that everything's OK."

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Sun, Apr 14, 2019