

# **new release**

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The statement released by the Arlington Independent School District this evening is further cause for alarm in the case of Nichols Junior High.

The Arlington NAACP and its legal team have no intention of litigating the technical merits of our legal claims outside of the courtroom.

The illnesses endured by Nichols Junior High students and staff are real and documented by lab results, toxicology reports, MRIs and other medical testing.

The number of illness reports, 522 by 70 faculty and staff, were numbers reported by school district leadership at a March 21, 2017 parent meeting in the Nichols Junior High cafeteria.

AISD leaders continue to contradict themselves; saying that after “extensive testing” they are no closer to identifying the source of the substance that is sickening students and staff; which indicates they clearly acknowledge there is a problem. At the same time, AISD has declared that the substance and source, which by their own admission are unknown, presents no danger to students and staff.

Additionally, in media interviews, AISD says tests results indicate there are no problems while at the same time reporting they are still testing to identify the problem, all-the-while attempting to assert that the number of incidences have decreased.

The Arlington NAACP has taken legal action against the district. Instead of district legal counsel preparing to defend its indefensible position in court, they’ve resorted to face-saving measures and assaults on the professionalism and sanity of faculty and staff. Additionally, AISD has attacked the credibility of our lead expert, an environmental scientist, toxicologist and a member of the World Health Organization’s Chemical Risk Assessment Network.

“It has been 195 days since the initial evacuation of Nichols Junior High School. AISD’s efforts have been inadequate and insufficient,” said Alisa Simmons, president of the Arlington NAACP. “They don’t get credit for trying and giving up. The question remains --- Has the district identified the issue and resolved it? The answer remains no, it has not.”

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