

ASHRAE TC 9.7 – Educational Facilities

Virtual Full Committee Interim Meeting – Minutes

Monday, March 30th, 2026| 3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

Remote Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order (3:08pm)

Chair: Raj Setty

Attendance:

Chris Ruch

Calvin Timmons

Jon Raja

Corey Metzger

Junelle Harris

Effe Greathouse

LowryJ

Itzhak Maor

Aleksandr.makarov

Jordan Boothby

Austin Reath

Raj Setty

Jeremy Zeedyk

2. Review of Scope (Raj Setty)

“TC 9.7 is concerned with the application of heating, ventilating, air-conditioning, refrigeration, life safety, and energy conservation systems for educational facilities, including early childhood education through higher education facilities.”

3. ASHRAE Code of Ethics Commitment (Raj Setty)

ASHRAE Code of Ethics Commitment

“In ASHRAE meetings, we will act with honesty, fairness, courtesy, competence, inclusiveness and respect for others, which exemplify our core values of excellence, commitment, integrity, collaboration, volunteerism and diversity, and shall avoid all real or perceived conflicts of interest. Our culture is one of inclusiveness, acknowledging the inherent value and dignity of each individual. We celebrate diverse and inclusive communities, understanding that doing so fuels better, more creative and more thoughtful ideas, solutions and strategies for the Society and the communities our Society serves. We respect and welcome all.”

See full ASHRAE Code of Ethics: <https://www.ashrae.org/about-ashrae/ashrae-code-of-ethics>

4. Chair's Report (Raj Setty)

- Subcommittees
 - Model Language
 - Controls
 - Early Childhood Handbook
- BASIC Conference
 - School leaders need
 - The main items that they are looking for as we think about V3:
 - HVAC deferred maintenance
 - HVAC preventative maintenance
 - IAQ
 - Lack of funding – how to do more with less money
 - Standardize MEP condition assessments
 - Overcrowding/under enrollment of schools – they need a gameplan to mothball or trailers
 - Lack of wifi – dead zones
 - Electrical systems that are not equipped for 21st century learning and electrification
 - Changing role of schools to be climate resilient hubs and community shelters
 - TCO
 - Philosophical role of schools – do they exist for the learner or for the community. If the latter, then we need more trade curriculum in schools.
 - **Should 9.7 be involved**
 - JZ – Yes this is a need and schools are interested in trades
 - JH – Looking at buildings as a whole system approach
 - CR – Fresno is looking at program that works directly with local trades to bring in school HVAC technicians
 - CM – This should moved to or involve student activities
 - RS – What are the problems in the marketplace?
Need for people to do the work

5. Knowledge Share (Open Forum) **Time allotted to discuss current events and recent research relevant to TC 9.7.**

Standards Project 235 – Pursuing ANSI Accreditation on Indoor Environmental Quality
New ASHRAE Sacramento Chapter

- Become an operational tool

- [ASHRAE IEQ Resources](#)

VRF – Schools are not wanting VRF systems

- Poor piping testing requirements – leaks and mechanical fittings
- A2L requires replacing the line sets
 - Concerns about A2L
- Complexity of controllers -
 - Software failures
 - Power spikes
 - Proprietary - Limited to manufacturers who may not be still offering services.
- Life Expectancy much lower than an hydronic system
 - At most 15 years
 - Significant replacement
- Handbook
 - TC 9.7 currently recommends. Should it

Center for Excellence for Building Decarbonization (CEBD) – Retreat in April

- Roadmap for TC moving forwards (Strategic plan)

6. Old Business

Design Guidance for Educational Facilities – Version 3.0 & 4.0

- Drafted V3 was not completed. Updates will be considered in V4.
- Moving onto version 4.
 - More holistic
 - Survey – What they would like to see in version 4? Raj to submit concepts to Chris Ruch. Chris to develop survey.
 - MEP Assessments
 - VRF – Schools are not wanting

7. Project Status Report

- **IAQ Control Strategy** – Steven Winstead
 - Steve was not on call
 - Plan to put on low gear
 - Putting together control sequences and sharing with ASHRAE 36
- **Model Language and Assessments for Legislation** – Tony & JuNelle
 - Reviewing existing policies (Phase 1)
 - Government Affairs said survey of existing laws is not in their prevue as it does not make a recommendation
 - TAC was contacted with request to see if they had comments or objections
 - No response as of yet
 - Survey of Educational Facilities Stakeholders (Phase 2)

- Developed and ready for release
 - 5 minutes for completion
 - Reviewed during meeting
 - Encouraged to share – ASHRAE Chapters
 - Facilities, maintenance, or operations manager
 - Facilities, maintenance, or operations worker
 - Independent technician
 - Industrial hygienist
 - Professional engineer
 - Architect
 - Contractor
 - Develop FAQ regarding filtration
- **Early Childhood Handbook Addition** – Itzhak Mahor
 - Completed for 2027 Handbook
 - May – TC can review
 - June – TC to approve
 - Recommended Systems to be used:
 - Is VRF a recommended system in schools?
 - Downsides and Upsides
 - Engineer should be cautious about...
 - Handbook subcommittee to convene write up language

9. Next Interim Meeting: Monday, May 4th, 12-1pm

10. Adjournment: 3:04pm (ET)