

September 7, 2007

To the Springfield Township Community,

Last winter, tragedy steered us toward addressing Safety and Security issues throughout our facilities. Regular updates were provided to inform you about safeguards we were providing. The work of our Safety Committees and Ken Trump, our Safety Consultant, helped us identify safety improvement steps we needed to take. We have made significant progress in addressing the recommendations of the Safety Committee and Ken Trump. Let me tell you what you can expect to at the start of this year:

- *In the area of personnel*, we have:
 - Focused on a district approach to safety and have redesigned administrative responsibilities so that Michael Kell can play a district-wide role in coordinating and improving safety throughout our facilities
 - Added an additional security officer to provide evening security and have reassigned our security officers to provide security in all buildings and on the campus.
 - Added three hall monitors to provide additional coverage in the High School, coverage in the Middle School and evening support in all buildings.
- *In the area of facilities and equipment* , we have:
 - Replaced the security servers to ensure that our cameras will provide us uninterrupted information.
 - We have installed an uninterruptible power supply to those servers to cover them in the event of power failures.
 - We have totally replaced our voicemail system giving us the ability to trace calls and to record them for safety and security purposes.
 - We have allocated an annual budgetary category dedicated to maintenance of safety.
- *In the area of student support*, we are preparing to institute the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in grades K-8. This program has proven to increase the emotional safety of students, and reduce discipline incidents. It supports the Restorative Practices that have been implemented in the High School.
- *In the area of Training*, Mr. Kell and Principals have prepared new, easy- to-use lockdown and evacuation directions and materials. Additionally, we have redesigned the Safety directions for our staff so they are easier to access in an emergency. Training efforts for staff and students will begin early in the year to acquaint all with safety basics. This will be followed by practice with our students and staff throughout the year. We know that practice is the strongest form of training, This will take some time and may be inconvenient, but certainly is necessary to the safety and well-being of students and staff.
- Finally, *Communications* have also been enhanced, not only through voicemail, but with the implementation of Global Connect, our emergency calling system, to keep you informed of situations, directions and decisions you need to know as they relate to your children.

We will be assessing the results of all safety and security measures to continue to improve in this vital area. As always, I welcome and appreciate your support and suggestions.

Sincerely,
Roseann B. Nyiri, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools