

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Dr. Kari McGann Superintendent of Schools 50 Court Street, Flemington, New Jersey 08822-1300 Phone: (908) 284-7561 Fax: (908) 284-7656 kari.mcgann@frsd.us



March 27, 2023

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Faculty, Staff Members, Parents and Community Members,

Once again, our District is devastated by the loss of life today due to another school shooting in this country, this time in Nashville. As we feel profound sorrow for the families who are grieving, school leaders throughout the nation continue to face the constant challenge of potential threats from school violence.

Here in our District, each school has a Class III officer assigned to provide safety, security and on-site support to students, faculty, staff members and visitors. Our Class III officers are retired law enforcement officers who previously served as fully-trained, full-time police officers in New Jersey.

To enhance safety and security measures, one of our vice principals has been serving as a district safety specialist for the past seven years. He has completed specialized training to hold this title. He also serves as chairperson of the District Security Committee and assists the Superintendent in decision making on safety and security in the District. Additionally, the district's Director of Educational Facilities, Operations and Security supports efforts to ensure buildings and grounds are secure. The team is notified any time there are issues that may be of concern with regard to safety and security.

In addition, as part of the 2019 referendum, the District installed an upgraded security system through a contract with DataComm. The system ensures that first responders receive the information they need to address the situation. Our schools' safety measures were improved with a lockdown and emergency notification system which allows us to immediately alert everyone on school grounds of a lockdown, active threat, or other emergency event.

To work toward the prevention of school violence, our District focuses on providing support to the overall wellbeing of children. To focus on the whole child, our District partners with Effective Schools Solutions (ESS) to support students who are struggling. ESS provides services through licensed clinicians and therapeutic counselors whose expertise is utilized to ensure students identified by school personnel receive counseling support so they are available for learning. Individual, group, and even family counseling sessions support our students identified as in need of intensive social emotional support. You can find a presentation on ESS that I shared with our Board of Education linked here and an announcement about our partnership with ESS in my September newsletter linked here.

## <u>A reminder about visitors:</u>

The District welcomes school visitors under the guidance of District Policy 9150, School Visitors. The policy, <u>linked here</u>, states that "for the educational program to continue undisturbed when visitors are present, and to prevent the intrusion of disruptive persons into the schools, the Board directs the enforcement of rules governing school visits."

All parents and visitors to our Flemington-Raritan Regional School District will notice on all exterior doors of facilities signs directing visitors to report to the main office and not to hold or prop the door open. These signs are posted to remind visitors that procedures must be followed to request access to a building. Please, in the effort of safety and security of students, staff, and faculty, do not hold the door open for others to enter if you



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have been granted access to the building. It is extremely important that each individual requests access and that access be granted by the main office.

Please be reminded that if there are district-wide safety and security messages such as security drills, power outages, or other crises that require district-wide communication, those messages and alerts will come from the Superintendent's office. If you have any concerns or questions about safety and security, please reach out to your building principal.

As we keep the Nashville families in our hearts and thoughts, everyone here at FRSD continues our steadfast commitment to all students, staff members and families here in Flemington-Raritan. It continues to be an honor to serve as your Superintendent.

Sincerely,

Kon McGann

Dr. Kari McGann Superintendent of Schools