

# Millstone Township School District

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April 19, 2018

Dear Millstone Families,

As you know, safety and security have been at the forefront of recent discussions among the members of the Board of Education and the District's administrative team. Although there is no absolute way to prevent a tragedy from occurring in our schools, there are actions that may be taken to further improve our daily practices and our facilities, and we have been actively reviewing these using a multifaceted approach.

Most recently the Board of Education has granted me permission to engage in conversations with the Manalapan Police Department regarding a potential shared service agreement. Although the exact details of this agreement have not been finalized, we are actively discussing the possibility of having an increased law enforcement presence in District during school hours. This would enhance the current and continued level of support provided by the New Jersey State Police. Based on preliminary talks with administrators from both law enforcement departments, the two agencies would work collaboratively to further ensure the safety and well being of our schools, students, and staff.

In addition to exploring the potential increased police presence, the Board, administration and I have been confirming our policies, practices, and procedures, as well as reviewing potential physical building improvements that can be made to each school. The Middle School administrative team recently introduced an anonymous reporting app to the students which empowers students to report any and all concerns quickly and anonymously from their phones and other devices. And all schools continue to practice safety trainings including lockdowns, fire drills, evacuations, and shelter-in-place drills. It is important to recognize, however, that everyone plays a critical role in school safety. Students, staff and the community are encouraged to be observant and report if they see or hear something that makes them feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened, and especially if they hear threats of dangerous behavior. If there is any doubt, contact someone immediately. Furthermore, we ask for your patience as we strive to improve procedures with arrival and dismissal, dropping off items to the school, and school visitation policies. While this process can sometimes be cumbersome, please remember these efforts are being made to protect ourselves and our most precious assets.

The safety and security of our schools have been, and will continue to be, a top priority. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ch Huss".