



LEONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Members:

Our collective hearts continue to break for the families, friends, and the community of Parkland, Florida, and especially, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Many of us have spent a sleepless night saddened by this event and other events similar in nature, too horrific to fathom. As I met with other Superintendents yesterday, we talked about and shared the ways Districts have implemented greater security and safety in school buildings. Still this morning, I awake to the news that the Nutley School District is closed because of a threat learned on social media.

Please be assured that our administrative team meets regularly to discuss building safety and security. Not too long ago, in conjunction with the Leonia Police Department and the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Counter-Terrorism & Homeland Security Unit, the District completed Site-Assessment visits. Many of the recommendations of those visits were put into place immediately upon receipt of their report. Please understand that there are safeguards in place that I am unable to share, but know, that we continue to evaluate "next-steps" in tightening the level of security in each of our buildings.

I have learned this morning that several of our high school students were online-friends with students at the Parkland high school. They are brainstorming ways of sending Leonia/Edgewater support to those student-friends – possibly letters of support, artwork. They will find a way to let those students know that Leonia High School students are with them student to student.

We begin this long weekend with a heavy heart for the families in Parkland, Florida. Take a moment this evening, to hug your child a little longer. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Sincerely,

Joanne Megargee

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Superintendent