

March 11, 2018

Dear Wildcats, Cougar, Bengal, Tiger Families.....

I am writing with additional information regarding a possible student walkout at public schools by students on March 14, 2018. No matter ones political beliefs, we are attempting to keep the focus of March 14th (and beyond) on activities promoting awareness and prevention of school violence.

I take seriously my duties as building principal to provide a safe and secure environment for our students and staff. I also take seriously listening to our students. With those objectives in mind, I have been meeting with our students and student leaders. I have also met numerous times with other District 202 high school principals and district administrators.

Our Superintendent, Dr. Abrell has also met with students over the last week or so, as he often does. The students have appreciated respectful dialogue exchange with both Dr. Abrell and myself. He asked to attend these types of meetings so he could listen and speak with students.

Many great ideas came out of those meetings, conversations, and planning sessions. With Dr. Abrell's direction and support, each high school has developed a range of student-led activities. Some of those activities will be common to all schools, and some will be unique to each school. Our school's activities are listed on the last page of this letter.

Administration at all of our high schools realize many students are passionate about and take seriously the topic of school violence and what may be done in the name of prevention. We also realize that some students may walkout without that same interest or passion. We believe it is not equal or fair to treat those different student groups the same regarding any disciplinary consequence for participating in the planned walkout.

To that end, a student who participates appropriately in the March 14th walkout will be able to take part in a unique educational and interactive forum with an elected State Representative or State Senator in lieu of a traditional 1-hour after school detention.

Dr. Abrell contacted and discussed with State elected officials their willingness and ability to attend and meet with concerned, motivated students wishing to be problem solvers and not solely followers on this important topic. We believe those students who attend a forum with an elected State Representative or State Senator are serious about being involved in the political process to effect meaningful change.

The State Representative or Senator will begin meeting with interested students 20 minutes after student dismissal in the auditorium. The State Representative or Senator will answer questions

and discuss actions or communications that impact politicians as well as the entire political process. Dr. Abrell has reported that each State Representative or Senator is genuinely excited about the opportunity to listen and interact with our students. The program at each high school is limited to students or staff only. There may be an evening town hall type meeting at a later date open to parents or the general public.

Visits by State Representatives or State Senator:

*Wednesday, March 14 – State Representative Mark Batinick – Plainfield High School – Central

* Thursday, March 15 – State Representative Mark Batinick – Plainfield East High School

*Thursday, March 15 – State Senator Dan Biss (candidate for governor) – Plainfield North High School

*Friday, March 16 – State Representative Natalie Manley and State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Plainfield South High School

A student participating in this walkout but do not attend or participate in the forum, must serve a traditional one hour, after school detention.

We appreciate the passion that our students, parents, and community have for keeping our students and schools safe. I am particularly proud of our students for standing up for their beliefs, and for their commitment to making positive change. At the same time, we recognize some students for a variety of reasons do not wish to participate in a walkout.

The opportunity to attend the forum with a State-level elected official is also available to those students who do not decide to participate in any form of walkout. No students should feel pressured by another student to participate in a walkout. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in some or all of our building's specific activities.

Thank you for your time and support for all of us regarding this very emotional issue. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Principal