

Dear Stroudsburg Area School District Community,

16 February 2018

In the wake of the horrific school shooting in Florida, I want to share with you the protocols followed in our schools and ask your support in an effort to prevent any type of violence in our schools. First, from a security standpoint, we follow expert recommended safety protocols. Staff has had In-service training in A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate); and we drill and have conversations with our students regarding the process if such an event would unfold. Our buildings have controlled access points. We have a district security force and two (2) School Resource Officers permanently stationed in district buildings. We have other highly effective security measures in place which for tactical reasons are not shared publicly. I can assure you that we have strong relationships with all of our police departments that serve within the Stroudsburg Area School District.

I am proud of the fact that our administrative team, teachers, and staff take all reports of violence seriously; whether it is a FACEBOOK or any other social media post, a note, a verbal comment, or any other means of communication that has the potential for transmitting a threat. All threats are investigated and based on the facts, acted upon efficiently and severely.

As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." We view parents as an important extension of our schools and on the same team. The team must be aware at all times. If weapons are in a home, we trust they are locked up and accounted for 24/7. We are in this together and need to be proactive so these disgusting and heinous acts of violence do not occur.

Mental illness is another issue which is often married to gun violence. If issues exist of which we are not aware, it is important that we partner and assist in providing resources necessary to assist students and families. We have a great school district that prepares students for college, the workforce, and/or the military. I appreciate your support in keeping our schools safe. **Safety and security is everyone's responsibility!**

In closing, our thoughts go out to the families in Florida - I cannot imagine what they are experiencing.

Sincerely,

Cosmas C. Curry, Ed.D.

