



LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Levittown Memorial Education Center
150 Abbey Lane
Levittown, NY 11756

“Success for Every Student”



Tonie McDonald, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools
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February 28, 2018

Dear Members of the Levittown Community:

Since my last communication with you, we have had an opportunity to meet with our internal stakeholders in our schools, to discuss our security measures and protocols. I have also had many conversations, both in person, by email and on the phone with parents who have shared with me their thoughts on the alarming rise in school shootings in our country. Although I do not feel comfortable sharing all of our security protocols, I feel that I can share, without compromising the safety of our students and staff, the following information about what we have done, continue to do and plan to do to enhance the safety of our students and staff:

- Levittown was one of the first districts on Long Island to conduct lockdown/lockout drills in all schools.
 - Not only do we conduct the 4 required drills, but we have chosen to make the drills more complex by calling them during passing times and lunch times.
 - Levittown was also one of the first districts to conduct lockdown/lockout/active shooter drills in conjunction with the Nassau County Police Department as well as emergency bus evacuation drills.
- Levittown has had and continues to have a robust and extensive video surveillance system inside and outside of our buildings. Additional money has been allocated into the 18/19 proposed budget for scheduled upgrades to newer, more efficient cameras.
 - Levittown was one of the first districts to sign a contract with the Nassau County Police Department to view our cameras should they need to do so. In addition, Levittown is one of a small number of districts who has taken the next step to have 3D images available of all classrooms, district wide, which coordinate with building plans and maps of our buildings.
- Levittown was one of the first districts to implement the Nassau County Police Department's RAVE phone application for all schools. This provides immediate and valuable information to the Police Department should a serious situation arise on our property.
- Access to doors in all buildings has been limited.
 - Currently, all members of staff must use security swipes to enter our buildings
 - By spring of this school year, all visitors will be required to show ID that will be run through a data base before gaining entry to our schools. This system will be able to detect sex offender alerts and school defined alerts.
 - By spring of this school year, all secondary school students will be required to use a student ID to enter their building. Students who are not registered or who are on out of school suspension will be denied entry. Seniors who are leaving the building for lunch will be required to enter and exit through only one set of doors and will be required to use student ID to re-enter the building
- Currently, retired law enforcement personnel are stationed in each of our buildings. The Board will act on my recommendation at this evening's (February 28th) Board meeting to hire three more security guards for our High



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Schools. We will be hiring one more as well so that each High School will have three retired law enforcement security guards.

- Nine of our schools currently have vestibules at the entrance to the buildings. They already have buzzer systems to admit visitors, however, in addition to the visitor management system listed above, a wall partition will be constructed to prevent visitors from entering any other part of the entranceway until their ID has been cleared. Security personnel will accept the ID through a small opening and the ID will be retained until the visitor leaves. In one school, a vestibule must be created, and we have already begun plans to do so. The estimated time of completion of that project is April, 2018. In all vestibules, ballistic film will be adhered to the existing glass.

In addition to these physical processes, please know that we also do the following:

- To date, Levittown is the only district who has had a threat assessment of our transportation department, conducted by the TSA a sub division of the Department of Homeland Security. This was discussed at a public board meeting last year and they were impressed by the protocols we have in place
- We have a safety and security consultant from BOCES, in-district, who works with us on all issues regarding the health and safety of students and staff in our district.
- We conduct regular safety meetings, district-wide, which are attended by the Nassau County Police as well as the Fire Departments where our protocols and procedures are discussed. The police officers assigned to our schools regularly provide guidance to us on many issues. We have been advised that there will be an increased police presence from the Nassau County Police Department at all of our schools now and in the future.
- I am one of 15 Superintendents who serves on the Safety Committee of the Nassau County Council of School Superintendents. As such, I have met with the Police Commissioner on many occasions and have discussed the latest security measures recommended by our Police Department.
- Mr. Pastore, our Assistant Superintendent for Business, and who oversees security in our schools, has been named to Commissioner Ryder's Community Council, which will meet regularly to discuss security concerns in the Levittown Community.

The safety and security of our students is our highest priority and we take it very seriously. I am very proud to be the Superintendent of the Levittown School District, where I make my home and where my family attends school. I have always felt that our schools are safe, but recent events have caused us to take a hard look at what we do and discuss how we can do better. We believe we are moving in the right direction, but we are always open to suggestions. Should you have any, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Tonie McDonald

Tonie McDonald, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools