

October 11, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Over the last few days, much has been written and said about the arrest of Troy Reid, a student at our school, on charges of sexual assault against another student. I have met with some of you in person, and talked with others on the phone. While I am unable to share some of the details of what is an ongoing investigation, I want to help everyone understand more about this situation.

As you are aware, neither our school nor our school system was informed of Mr. Reid's June arrest. We did know that an investigation was taking place, but were never told of the filing of charges. Absent the knowledge of those charges, no school can consider whether to seek an alternative placement for a student through the Students Charged With Community Offenses regulation (JCC-RAK).

In the last few days, we have had many discussions with the Annapolis Police Department, which investigated the case, about ways in which we can improve communication and the flow of information. Both parties have pledged to take steps to do just that, and hopefully to avoid the type of gap that existed in this case. I firmly believe we have made great progress and taken steps to help avoid an incident like this in the future. Both the Annapolis Police Department and the Anne Arundel County Police Department sit on our school system's Security Council, and we have ongoing dialogues with both agencies.

I realize that many of you are frustrated that we cannot share more details about this incident or about the consequences of the violations of the Code of Student Conduct. I also realize that in many situations, parents hear more through community conversations than we are able to share publicly. That is frustrating for me as well, but I ask you to understand that we must abide by confidentiality provisions that exist for students.

It is important that we maintain an ongoing dialogue with parents and our community partners. Our school staff cannot be everywhere, and I urge you to contact me if you hear of anything in the community that may have ramifications for our school or school system. I am very proud of the relationships we have developed with our parents and community partners over the years, and we will continue to need your assistance and information to help ensure that our school moves forward.

Thank you for the support you continue to give your children and our school. Together, we will continue to make a difference. Please do not hesitate to contact the school at 410-266-5240 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Don Lilley
Principal

DL/bm