



Clinton Township Board of Education

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Clinton Township Board of Education

Statement – School Safety and Security

September 2018

As mentioned last month, the safety and security of our children and staff are always at the forefront of this board of education's mind. Our administration has, and continues to work with the Hunterdon County's Homeland Security Department, specifically with Detective Kevin Byrd. Detective Byrd and his colleagues visit our buildings and campuses, assess their overall safety and make recommendations for improvement based upon their own experiences, constant research and information shared with other first responders. The district incorporates Detective Byrd's recommendations, and thus continually improves the safety of our buildings and grounds.

The district also works closely with the Clinton Township police department. They have a large presence in and around our schools. They work in a very collaborative way with our administrators on a daily basis. Our district feels very fortunate to have such a collaborative relationship with both the county's homeland security department and the Clinton Township Police Department.

The district has a Memorandum of Agreement with law enforcement, which is required. It gives them access to keys and cameras in case of emergency. It also ensures a faster and a more efficient response.

The district's facilities and finance committee has regular, meaningful conversations, along with our administration, regarding how to ensure the safety of all of those who enter any of our campuses and their associated buildings. Over the years the district has spent well over \$1M to upgrade the security of our buildings. Many, if not most of those upgrades, have not and cannot be disclosed to the public in order to maintain their effectiveness. This past summer and during the month of September, additional security upgrades continued in our buildings.

The pursuit of providing the most secure campuses and buildings never stops. In September, we discussed the next steps necessary to maintain and improve the safety and security of our district. We have sought out professionals that specialize in schools safety, who can assess the district safety as it is today. These professionals will make a presentation to our committee, Mrs. Cone and Mr. Kilpatrick during the month of October. They will be asked to review their organization's expertise in school safety, processes for assessing our campuses and associated buildings for safety and security, present a timeline for completing their review and how they will present their analysis of our district. Once the

presentations are complete, a recommendation will be made to the full board on which group should conduct the next step in assessing the security and safety of our buildings and campuses.

Once again, the goal will be to recommend to the full board in October the best possible team of experts to conduct the next assessment of our district's overall security, in order to design any necessary improvements. We will have a recommendation during the October monthly Board meeting.