

February 9, 2018

Dear EGRPS Families,

As Superintendent, I have pledged to be as transparent as possible in order to assure our students are educated in a safe learning environment in and out of the classroom. Today, consistent with that commitment, I write about a very atypical personnel matter.

Recently, district leadership received a concern regarding high school teacher and track/cross-country coach, Mr. Nick Hopkins. Pursuant to Board of Education policy and procedure, the District immediately began an investigation into the specific concerns alleging that Mr. Hopkins had inappropriate conduct involving former district students. To ensure the integrity of the investigation, the staff member has been placed on an administrative leave of absence and will remain on leave until the district investigation is completed.

As educators, we are entrusted to teach and protect our students at all times. As a district we will not tolerate behavior that compromises the safety or well-being of any of our students. Our district staff; teachers, support staff, and administrators, are held to very high standards of professionalism, ethics, and conduct. Whenever allegations suggest that these standards have been breached, we will investigate and take appropriate corrective action.

I realize that in situations such as this, it is human nature to speculate and discuss the unknown. I would ask that these discussions be minimized so that the individuals who are providing information during the ongoing investigation process are able to maintain the confidentiality and privacy that they desire and deserve, and so that teaching and learning can continue in our schools.

We ask that you speak with your child(ren) and make them aware of the importance of reporting inappropriate conduct and that district policies and protocols are in place to protect all of our students. These policies are strictly enforced, and protocols are followed when concerns are brought to our attention, either formally or informally. The District Title IX policy and guidelines can be found [here](#) or on our website. Mrs. Jenny Fee, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, serves as the district Title IX Coordinator and can be reached at jfee@egrps.org or 616-235-3535.

Again, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Fee or my office directly at 616-235-3535. Thank you for your ongoing support of EGRPS.

Sincerely,



Sara Magaña Shubel, Ph.D.
Superintendent

SMS/jmm

