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## **Cherry Hill Public School District Statement Friday, March 2, 2018**

In the Cherry Hill Public School District, our children and our staff are our most precious resource. They are the heart and soul of who WE are.

As a district, our top priority has always been the safety and security of our entire educational community.

In light of recent events, including the tragedy in Parkland, Florida, we are taking a comprehensive look at our current protocols and how we can continue to improve. We share the concern and the emotion and the impact of the events that have occurred in our country. The Board of Education and the school district are grateful to the students, the families, the community members, the staff, and community officials who have so passionately engaged in discussion about making sure our children are safe.

As we move forward, the district is committed to short term and long term enhancements and developments in our safety and security.

Beginning on Monday, March 5, 2018, the Cherry Hill Public School District will be implementing the following enhanced security protocols:

- There will be an increased Cherry Hill Police presence in our schools. The Cherry Hill Town Council, Mayor Cahn and Chief Monaghan have committed officers who will be a dedicated and visible presence in our schools, beginning on Monday, March 5, 2018, through the end of the school year on June 19, 2018.
- All parents/guardians/family members must present photo identification and the student identification number of their child prior to being admitted to the school building.
- All other visitors, including alumni, must establish an appointment prior to arriving at the school, and will be required to present photo identification to be admitted to any school.
- All Cherry Hill Public Schools will communicate arrival and dismissal procedures with their children and families.

In addition to the immediate actions to be implemented on Monday, March 5, 2018, the Cherry Hill Public School District will:

- Convene a special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the auditorium at HS West. The agenda will be posted on the district website on Monday, March 5, 2018. There will be time for public comment during the meeting. There will be a portion of the meeting held in closed session to discuss staffing and legal matters.



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- Work with security professionals to assess policies and procedures in place in all district schools and facilities.
- Convene community conversations to bring together parents, children, community members and elected officials to discuss safety and security. Dates are currently being established and will be communicated soon.

Every day, all Cherry Hill Public Schools will continue to hold staff accountable to implement the following:

- All staff members will sign in to the building when arriving and will sign out of the building when exiting.
- All visitors to the district schools must report to the main entrance and be buzzed in, one at a time.
- All visitors will be required to sign in to the building upon arrival and to sign out upon departure.
- All exterior doors will remain closed and locked during the school day.
- All staff members will wear their identification badges at all times.
- All visitors will wear guest badges while they are in the building.
- Any student arriving late to school must be buzzed in the main entrance and report to the main office to sign in.
- A minimum of one fire drill and one security drill will be held in every school each month.
- Regular staff meetings will include a review of district safety and security procedures.
- Building level and district level safety committee meetings will include a review of safety and security procedures.
- Students, staff, and community members will continue to be encouraged to follow, "If you see something, say something."

3/2/18