



Michael Zoerhoff
Superintendent of Schools

Office of Superintendent

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Dear Parents:

Many of you have been following the news reports regarding the tragic loss of our dear student, Mujey Dumbuya. Today our focus continues to be on supporting the family and our school community as we cope with this tragic loss. This student was an inspiration to everyone she encountered. Her enthusiasm was infectious and her desire to engage all people positively will continue to be a model for her friends and family members. We will continue to celebrate her life and the joy that she brought to so many people.

This tragedy strengthens our resolve to work with our students and parents to maintain open lines of communication regarding ways for preventing dangerous people from taking advantage of our community's greatest asset, our children and youth. There are things we cannot disclose because this is an ongoing criminal case and we do not want to jeopardize the police investigation.

In light of the recent media coverage, we wanted to update you as best we can about our former employee, Quinn James. As a grounds and maintenance crew member, Mr. James' duties focused on care of the grounds and facilities and delivering documents to district offices. None of his job responsibilities required contact with students. In the middle of November 2017, district leaders were made aware, by a student and her family, of an alleged assault that occurred during the summer months of 2017, when school was not in session. During the November meeting, the district also learned that possibly one of our grounds and maintenance crew members could be involved. The district took immediate action to investigate, interview appropriate parties and subsequently terminate the employment of Mr. James. His failure to be forthcoming around the assault charges, and acts of misconduct violating Board and District policies and state laws, led to his dismissal.

Unfortunately, as law enforcement reminds us all, it is extremely difficult to stop individuals who have malicious intent. However, that will not deter us from working diligently to protect and guide the students under our care. As we mourn the loss of one of our Kentwood family members, let us continue to support her family, friends and celebrate the joy she brought us all.

Sincerely,

Michael Zoerhoff
Superintendent