

## **A Word to Families and Citizens about School Security**

Pottersville Public Schools is committed to keeping all staff, students, and visitors safe while they are on campus during the school day or attending after school events.

The Board of Education and the previous administration wisely utilized resources, approved by the voters of this community, to install locked security doors that restrict access; video security cameras throughout the buildings; and an electronic key system that records who enters and leaves the buildings. Recently, the District has installed updated LED lighting in the parking lots and on the exterior of the buildings. Certain on-line sites are blocked electronically so students do not have access to inappropriate material. Staff have been issued name tags to be worn while in the work environment. Each school has a sign-in and sign-out procedure should authorized persons either bring a student to school late or take the student from school prior to dismissal. The District uses the Honeywell Alert System to inform subscribers of any emergency situations that might happen either in a building or on the campus. The District collaborates with Dean Transportation to assure that students who ride the buses are accounted for always. Pottersville Public Schools has a very good relationship with the Pottersville Police Department and the Eaton County 911 Dispatch, which alerts the Eaton County Sheriff Department, Michigan State Police, and Emergency First Responders. Finally, the District has a very good relationship with the City of Pottersville Fire Department and the Benton Township Fire Department.

It is important to remember that there is virtually no location to which the public has access that can be one hundred percent secure. That is why employees, students, parents/guardians, and community must be vigilant to keep everyone safe.

Just as I meet with the administrators to monitor school safety and security procedures and make changes if necessary, it is important for parents/guardians and community to monitor what goes on outside of the school environment.

I ask parents/guardians to please monitor your young person's activities on-line. This means monitoring computer activity as well as phone activity. If you see something or become aware of something on-line, please say something. Speak to the teacher, counselor, social worker, principal, superintendent, or board member. District officials cannot address something if they are unaware of it. For members of the community, if you see something, say something. Contact law enforcement.

If a person chooses to threaten the safety of our students, staff, campus, or facilities and they are apprehended, the District will pursue all policy and legal remedies that are available.

The Pottersville Community is a great place to live and to work. The Pottersville Public Schools is a great place to teach and to learn. Let's work together to insure all students, staff, parents/guardians, and citizens are safe to enjoy this wonderful area.

I would like to thank the parents/guardians, citizens, city officials, law enforcement, fire departments, and Pottersville employees for your continued effort to keep the young people of our community safe.

Dr. Thomas J. Pillar  
Interim Superintendent