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ROBERT J. SPENGLER
SUPERINTENDENT

CHRISTINA LUTZ-DOEMLING
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT

February 21, 2018

Dear Catasauqua Community,

In light of the recent events in our Country regarding school safety, I would like to share some general points about our emergency preparedness plans. Since the safety of our students and staff is paramount to our mission, detailed emergency plans have been developed and are consistently refined. Although details of our plans are confidential to maintain the safety of our students and staff, our processes and actions taken during a crisis situation assist in providing a “passageway to safety” during a crisis.

The Catasauqua Area School District Safe Schools Committee meets regularly to identify areas of concern and plan training and initiatives accordingly. A Confidential Safety and Security Audit performed by the State Auditor’s Office has been received and utilized for an outside perspective, as well as those of our community First Responders. This group is currently planning a site based, inter-agency active shooter drill for the students and staff of the District.

On a District level, a new Comprehensive plan for the entire District is being developed with components of student and staff safety, community involvement, and proactivity in the area of mental health intervention. We continually evaluate our policies and processes and are currently reviewing all facilities and safety interventions in order to increase vigilance and familiarity with these procedures during this time of heightened sensitivity.

General Overview of Safety Planning in the Catasauqua Area School District

In addition to secure entranceways, locked exterior doorways, buzz-in procedures, and other interventions, proactive planning in the area of safety include, but are not limited to:

Emergency Management Plans

- Close relationships exist with our local, municipal, county, and state officials in order to collaborate and provide effective and efficient response in the best interest of our students, staff, and community.
- The district has comprehensive emergency management plans in place to respond to a variety of emergency situations.
- Administrators are National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) certified and have participated in exercises and training on this nationally acclaimed approach to incident management backed by FEMA.

The mission of the Catasauqua Area School District, in partnership with our community, is to achieve educational excellence and promote life-long learning.

It is the policy of the Catasauqua Area School District that no person shall be subjected to unlawful discrimination on the ground of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, handicap/disability, familial status, genetic information, or any other legally protected classification with respect to any of its programs or activities or in the employment of any personnel. Sexual harassment or harassment relating to an individual's race, color, age, creed, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, handicap/disability, familial status, genetic information, or any other legally protected classification is a form of unlawful discrimination and is expressly prohibited under the School District's policy. The School Board has adopted procedures for filing complaints of unlawful discrimination/harassment with the School District and the School District's investigation and disposition of those complaints. If you would like to obtain a copy of the complete nondiscrimination policy, including the complaint procedures, please contact the Superintendent, 201 N. 14th Street, Catasauqua, PA 18032, phone 610-264-5571. The Superintendent is the District's Compliance Officer for all nondiscrimination requirements (503/504-Title VI-Title VII-Title IX-ADA Coordinator). The nondiscrimination policy and complaint procedures are also available on the District's web site: www.cattysd.org

- Plans include all steps to be taken in an emergency, along with roles and responsibilities for administrators, staff, and students, and are practiced regularly.
- Plans undergo regular review, as well as debriefing upon application to a specific incident.
- Plan details are not shared publicly.

Evacuation

- Evacuation plans have been developed for any type of emergency and include various locations and transportation to these locations.
- Decisions regarding exactly which location and method of transportation will be used are made in collaboration with first responders, based on the nature of the emergency.
- Reunification locations are announced when a safe situation is declared.

Communication

- Catasauqua Area School District provides emergency communication through SwiftK-12 (text, email, and voice messages), the Catasauqua Area SD website, and social media including Twitter and Facebook.

I truly believe we can always make our schools safer, and achieving this requires a partnership between school and community. Please assist us by remaining vigilant and report any out of the ordinary occurrence to a school or law enforcement official. As always, please feel free to contact my office directly at 610.264.5571, option #2.

Again, thank you so very much for working together in the best interest of our school and community.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Spengler

Superintendent