



ISLAND TREES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education
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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 74 FARMEDGE ROAD, LEVITTOWN, NEW YORK 11756-5202

Superintendent
Charles J. Murphy

February 16, 2018

Dear Island Trees School Community,

We are deeply saddened by the tragedy which took place in Parkland, Florida earlier this week. The senseless loss of lives is deeply disturbing to all, but even more so to parents. Yesterday, our administrators fielded a number of calls from concerned parents about school safety and our protocols. We embrace these phone calls and your suggestions. We want to work with all of you to protect our most important treasures – your children.

In response to the Newtown tragedy several years ago, Island Trees introduced new safety measures at our schools. Although our schools continue to receive complaints about our locked doors, this is the most important security protocol we have added at our buildings. We will not compromise safety for a minor inconvenience. In addition, Island Trees has added new security aides to all of our schools, as well as to many of our school activities. In fact, all of our security aides have law enforcement/peace officer experience (police, sheriff, correction, and/or military). Furthermore, all of our schools participate in a minimum of four emergency lockdown drills a year to help prepare staff and students for emergency situations.

We continually assess and adjust our school district safety plans to ensure a safe learning environment for our students and staff. To this end, new safety measures are on the way. We are currently waiting for the State Education Department to formally approve the following safety improvement projects:

- new security vestibules for each school lobby
- new entry and identification system
- a total replacement of all interior classroom doors equipped with a new panic-button locking system
- security window film for interior/exterior doors and first floor windows
- new surveillance cameras

We expect this work to begin this summer.

In closing, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and Parkland community. We will continue to work to keep all members of our school community safe.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Murphy