



# KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Committed to Excellence*

Mr. Jason Schimpf  
School Business Administrator

Dr. James J. Lavender  
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Calandro  
Assistant Superintendent

March 6, 2023

Dear School Community:

As reported by Kingsway High School's Principal, Ms. Fox-Manno, on Monday, March 6, a student fight occurred in the West Café prior to the start of school. Staff responded quickly, and the students involved were removed immediately from the school environment.

Monday's fight comes after school officials reported a string of hostile and aggressive behaviors among high school students in recent weeks. The more egregious behaviors come in the form of verbal hostility, physical aggression, bias-related bullying, and hate speech. Kingsway joins a growing number of schools reporting an uptick in disruptive behaviors. A simple Google search will produce plenty of examples of what schools throughout the nation are currently experiencing. [School Superintendents in Virginia](#) report disruptions and challenges similar to what we are experiencing at Kingsway.

Our expectation that students will conduct themselves as "responsible" young adults is unwavering. The consequences and interventions outlined in our student code of conduct adhere to that expectation. While it is our goal to keep our students in school, it is worth emphasizing that we have no tolerance for behaviors that escalate to a point where the safety of other students and staff are in jeopardy.

In light of recent events, we invite you to a **district-wide community forum tomorrow, Tuesday, March 7th**. The focus of the meeting will be to listen to concerns, answer questions, and provide clarification on misinformation that may be surfacing as we continue to tackle these issues as school leaders.

### **Virtual Forum with the Superintendent**

- When: Tuesday, Mar. 7, 2023, 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
- Topic: Kingsway Regional School District Community Forum hosted by Superintendent
- Register in advance for this webinar:
- [https://krsd-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bW8kXQlyQ3CD9\\_2PTHoQ7w](https://krsd-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bW8kXQlyQ3CD9_2PTHoQ7w)

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope to see you all during our virtual community session.

Very truly yours,

Dr. James J. Lavender  
Superintendent of Schools  
SVV/jl

*Home of the Dragons*