

October 28, 2021

Dear Manhasset School Community,

Following the malicious criminal attack on our computer network, the past several weeks have been extremely challenging for all of us in the District, especially our employees and students.

Earlier this week, the local press published a story online that quoted excerpts from confidential personnel files involving inappropriate conduct by a Manhasset School District employee thirteen years ago. The information reported by the press had been obtained from confidential school district files that were stolen by criminals who posted the information to the dark web. The fact that such information is now in the public domain is the result of criminal activity by unknown individuals who intended to harm others by their actions. The particular matter reported by the press is deeply troubling and was addressed by the District at that time. The District remains committed to ensuring that our on-going training and protocols in such matters are as strong as possible.

As we take the appropriate steps to protect the private data of our students and employees as recommended by cybersecurity experts, cybersecurity legal counsel, and our network engineers, we implore everyone --- including the press --- to refrain from further publicizing stolen confidential materials. Circulating such information is a terrible invasion of personal privacy, causing untold distress to the District's employees, students and retirees. We also fear that the more publicity that is given to this criminal conduct, the more it emboldens criminal hackers to attack and to attempt to extort other school districts, municipal services and private businesses.

Our collective focus must remain on the safety of our school community and on constructively moving our community forward.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi
Acting Superintendent of Schools