



*Ronald D. Valenti, Ph.D.
Superintendent for Schools*

Board of Education & Superintendent's Message

Dear Members of the Eastchester School Community,

We were shocked and extremely disheartened to learn of the arrest of our Interim Director of Physical Education, Health, and Athletics, Thomas Puccini. As previously stated, when the Eastchester School District learned of Mr. Puccini's arrest on November 1st, the District immediately placed him on administrative leave, prohibited him from entering into or being present on any District property, and revoked all electronic access. At this time, it is important to understand that the District is not in possession of any allegations that Mr. Puccini's conduct involved any current or former District students. Mr. Puccini is now in his fifth year of service, was properly vetted before he was hired, and at no time has any complaint been lodged regarding his performance. In addition to serving as an Assistant Athletic Director, last spring he was appointed Interim President of the Teachers Union.

The District is committed to ensuring that its students, faculty, and staff remain protected.

[Attached is the statement released by the Westchester District Attorney's office on November 4, 2024.](#)

Please note that this is the only information the District has about the case at this time. Please direct any questions or concerns regarding this matter to the Westchester County District Attorneys' office at (914) 995-8546.

As always, the safety of our students is our top priority.



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K-12 Hiring Practices/Staff Training

All staff have for the past several years taken New York mandated courses in Child Abuse, Title IX, Dignity for All Students, Ethics and Boundaries for School Employees, Sexual Harassment and related online workshops.

Last year the District expanded its background search of all new hires to an outside investigative agency, Corporate Solutions. Background searches have been intensified to determine inappropriate prior conduct. We have already seen these searches yielding positive results for our hiring practices.

Student Training K-12

We currently offer the "Good Touch, Bad Touch" lessons in 2nd and 4th grade for both Greenvale and Anne Hutch students taught by our school counselors and psychologists. Parents may opt their child out of these lessons. In 6th grade, students are taught about Erin's Law by the health teacher, and in 10th grade high school students are taught about boundaries, power, and consent, also in their health class. Each set of lessons is aligned to the developmental appropriateness of the students, given their age and grade.

We are exploring extending the "Good Touch, Bad Touch" program each year to all elementary grades K-5.

One of the strongest deterrents to potential abuse is educating our youngest students to know



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when they must speak to a parent or trusted adult about feeling uncomfortable due to an inappropriate “bad touch”. We must convince students that they are doing the right thing by reporting and speaking out. We are planning to expand Erin’s Law training beyond Grades 6 and 7 to all secondary 9-12 grade levels and, where appropriate, to the upper elementary grades 4 and 5.

Our Parents’ Role

If any child reports inappropriate behavior or being made to feel uncomfortable at school, parents should notify the District immediately. The District is committed to ensuring an immediate end to an improper conduct consistent with Board of Education policy and applicable law.

We understand the trust you place in us to safeguard your children, and we share your commitment to maintain a safe and supportive environment for all students. We thank you for your continued support as we work through this difficult situation.

Sincerely,

Eastchester Board of Education
&
Ronald D. Valenti, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools