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Marion Manzo, *Chair, Board of Education*
Tom Marks, *Secretary, Board of Education*
Heather Rodgers, *Treasure, Board of Education*

February 6, 2025

Dear Region 15 Community Members:

We understand the community still has many questions about Superintendent Smith's arrest on January 18 in which he was charged with failure to maintain the proper lane and driving under the influence of alcohol. We provide the following statement as context for our decision-making process.

Mr. Smith informed the Board, through our Chairperson, of his accident and arrest approximately six hours after it had occurred. The Board responded as promptly as possible under the law and met in executive session with the Board's legal counsel on January 22 to address this serious matter. During the executive session, the Board reviewed the facts surrounding this incident and questioned Mr. Smith. The Board then carefully evaluated our options with the district's best interests as our top priority.

The Board took into account Mr. Smith's seven years of successful leadership and his candor in reporting the incident to the Board as promptly as he practically could. The Board also took into account that Mr. Smith accepted full responsibility for his actions. The Board concluded that this incident did not erode our confidence in Mr. Smith's ability to continue leading our district effectively.

Mr. Smith will continue to face many consequences for his actions. We believe Mr. Smith will learn from this serious mistake.

This has been a learning opportunity for everyone involved. The Board is also reviewing how information is shared and will strive to do better.

The Board of Education strongly supports safe driving, including refraining from driving under the influence. We will use this as a teachable moment to encourage our students to make responsible choices.

As always, we welcome your feedback. Please email us at Region15BOE@region15.org

Thank you,

The Region 15 Board of Education