

Thank You to Those Who Participated in the Forum, Update on Immigration and Customs Enforcement Developments

Dear Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools Community,

On behalf of our administrative team, and the members of our staff who were present to address our audience earlier this week, thank you to everyone who attended our kick-off *BEE Empowered* Key Communicators public forum on Wednesday evening. We asked the community in our scientific survey last spring about other methods the BBHCS D could utilize to further listen to the community. Public engagement forums were among those where I and our leadership team thought opportunities existed. The community proved to be correct, as this gathering of families, parents, interested individuals, and other stakeholders was constructive, interactive, and hopefully informative. We discussed an important matter to many of this week's participants in as broad-based of a manner as possible, which is among the main points of establishing these community forums in the first place. The next one will be hosted on Wednesday, April 30th at BBHMS in the auditorium and will also begin at 7 p.m. We hope to see you there.

BBHCS D and the Recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement Developments

Another important topic has emerged which we felt required to address after obtaining legal counsel, which pertains to the recent Presidential rescinding of the 2021 Department of Homeland Security memo declaring schools to be "protected areas" from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) arrests. While this appears to be a matter of continuing development, some have expressed concern over their child's safety with the prospect of federal enforcement officials showing up unannounced at the school. The BBHCS D wants you to keep these things in mind for added comfort:

- The matter in immigration policies does NOT give I.C.E. blanket access to our schools or children, and anyone who seeks entry into our facilities must follow our protocols under ALL circumstances.
- The matter does not change our authority to restrict access to our facilities. I.C.E. is NOT permitted to enter our school without permission, or a warrant that provides specific access to an individual and specifies the school as the locale of enforcement and is signed by a judge.
- Our schools exist to educate students, not to serve as easy access to persons of interest for law enforcement. Our first priority is to preserve our educational environment for all students and staff!

Important Board Policies that restrict access to our facilities and protect the educational environment for students and staff:

- [Policy 5540: Interrogation of Students](#)
- [Policy 7440: Facility Security](#)
- [Policy 8330: Student Records](#)
- [Policy 9150: School Visitors](#)

These specific policies provide the BBHCS D with a comprehensive protection authority when it comes to who interacts with our students. I, as your Superintendent, will be designated as the Point of Contact for all BBHCS D staff members relative to I.C.E. or immigration matters on campus.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. Thank you for your continued support, and please have a safe and enjoyable weekend.

GO BEES!

Jeffrey D. Harrison
Superintendent

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