

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Paul Brubaker
973-518-2298

DISTRICT OFFICIALS ADDRESS KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL SECURITY MATTERS

Security screenings for everyone entering the building enacted this morning

Superintendent, School Safety Director thanked teacher who acted quickly to stop student fight on Friday

PATERSON – Following an incident on Friday that began with a student fight and a gun found in a student's possession in the building, Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer and Director of School Safety and Security Dalton Price began the day at John F. Kennedy High School to address security matter sand meet with school staff members.

“The safety of our students and staff is our top priority, and we are working to make sure that no one is able to bring an unauthorized weapon onto school property,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “We spent this morning listening to the concerns of our staff members. They want what our students and their parents want, and what we want – a safe high school where they can work and learn. And we fully intend to deliver that, starting with the immediate measures that began today.”

Everyone entering the Kennedy High School building was subjected to a security screening this morning, a measure that will continue. Students had a delayed opening this morning to allow district officials to meet with teachers and other staff members. An online meeting with Kennedy High School parents has been scheduled for this evening.

Both Shafer and Price had words of praise for John Sebastian, a teacher of construction trades who began teaching at the high school in September and acted immediately on Friday to quell the student fight that broke out on Friday morning and helped subdue the student who was in possession of a gun.

“Mr. Sebastian acted without hesitation to keep students and staff from getting hurt,” said Shafer. “Because of him, a bad situation was prevented from becoming a lot worse, and we are grateful to him for that.”

Paterson Police assigned to the high school as well as district security guards ultimately restored order at Kennedy High School on Friday in time for the regularly scheduled dismissal at 3:10 p.m.

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