



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Pottsgrove School District Community,

This joint letter from our School Board and Superintendent is a follow-up to the [letter](#) shared by Dr. Finnerty last week, addressing the increase in student disruptions and some violent student behaviors at Ringing Rocks Elementary School.

As this week's communication shared, an intensified plan to address these student behaviors is underway at Ringing Rocks Elementary School. The Board has been assured the administration will provide frequent and detailed updates on the progress of that plan, and has pledged to increase communication to our school community on this issue. We also want to share some additional measures the District is taking:

- The District has engaged the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety's School Safety Coordinator to perform an audit on the practices and operations of our schools district wide while focusing time at Ringing Rocks Elementary School. Our goal is to swiftly and effectively address the disruptions and behaviors at Ringing Rocks, while also taking advantage of this opportunity to examine systems across the district to help us foster the most positive learning environment possible.
- The Pottsgrove School District School Board is requesting an independent, expert assessment of the behavioral and safety issues at Ringing Rocks Elementary School. The goal of this third-party assessment is to identify additional, proactive measures to improve safety, security, and a positive atmosphere and learning environment at Ringing Rocks.

Additionally, we are proceeding with plans to request an independent, external audit of the district's special education services. The special education departments in public schools typically provide a wide range of school-based services for children, including those related to behavioral and mental health. Our administrative team welcomes the opportunity to learn, grow, and improve through an external audit. We want to ensure the district has the strongest and most well-developed processes possible to identify students who may be struggling at early ages, and to develop plans and implement services to effectively address their challenges.

As the conversations about this issue continue, we feel it is important that our community understands that the vast majority of students at Ringing Rocks Elementary School are not disruptive. It is not acceptable that the actions of a few children struggling with significant behavioral and emotional issues are negatively impacting the full school community. We are completely committed to effectively addressing these issues, finding the appropriate support for the children involved, and ensuring that our school environment is positive, safe, and warm.

It is also important that our community knows their concerns have been heard, and we are aligned in responding immediately, with increased urgency and commitment to addressing this situation and communicating more thoroughly. We appreciate the commitment of our dedicated teaching staff, and we will continue to collaborate and communicate with them as we work through these student issues. We welcome continued dialogue and partnership with our staff, parents, and community.

We will continue to provide additional updates as we move forward. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out directly to Dr. Finnerty and to our School Board members.

Respectfully,

Jay Strunk

Board President

David Finnerty

Superintendent