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Dear Readington Community,

The Readington Township School District values diverse perspectives, the relationships we have with our community, and the opinions our citizens bring to us. The Township has a long history of open dialogue and honest discourse. The freedom to express one's thoughts safely and respectfully is essential, and it must remain preserved. After all, our mission states that we, “empower members of our community to live purposeful lives with integrity...and embrace connections in our diverse, global society.”

Recently, discussions at our Board of Education meetings and posts on social media have reflected deep passion surrounding our schools. While passionate engagement demonstrates how much we all care about our students, the tone of recent discourse has, at times, crossed into hurtful and damaging territory. When attacks replace constructive conversation, our entire community suffers. Most importantly, it distracts us from our shared focus on supporting the district's children.

We are writing to you today together, as Superintendent and Board President, to suggest a reset in how we engage with one another.

Every voice in Readington Township matters. Differing opinions, challenging questions, and varied viewpoints are not only welcomed; they are vital to the continuous growth of our district. However, the strength of a community is measured not by whether we always agree, but by how we treat each other when we do not.

As we move forward, we ask every member of our community to join us in committing to:

- **Focusing on Our Shared Goal:** Keeping the safety, well-being, and academic growth of our students at the heart of every discussion.
- **Practicing Mutual Respect:** Engaging with kindness and active listening, whether in public meetings, in email, or even online.
- **Preserving a Safe Space for Dialogue:** Expressing concerns constructively without resorting to insults or divisive rhetoric.

We are, above all, one unified community dedicated to building a bright future for our children. Let us model for our students the very civility, empathy, and character we aim to instill in them every day.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

David Rizza
President, Board of Education