



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP

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ROBERT J. MILROD, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 14, 2018

Dear Upper Moreland Community Member:

In opening this message to the community, I wanted to provide a brief update on the Upper Moreland High School “walk-out” and the Upper Moreland Middle School “walk-in” which occurred this morning. Our student leaders did an excellent job at both schools today, and the events were responded to in mature, respectful fashion by those who chose to attend as well as by those who chose to remain in class. Please look for pictures of the events at both the Middle School and the High School at our Upper Moreland School District Facebook page.

On behalf of our School District Administrators and Board of School Directors, I would like to thank all of you who were able to attend our Safe Schools Forum last night at the Upper Moreland Middle School. Our official “attendance clicker” person counted 226 people in attendance, not including the administrators and law enforcement personnel who were in attendance. For a parent meeting in Upper Moreland, that is indeed a very large crowd.

In speaking of numbers, one of the themes that came out of last night’s meeting had to do with attendance at District-sponsored trainings, routine meetings, and large group meetings like the one held last night. I would like to encourage all interested Upper Moreland community members to attend our Upper Moreland School Board Committee Meetings whenever possible. At the Committee Meetings, topics such as cameras on school buses, the renovation of schools, the building of new athletic facilities, the overall school district budget, improvements to academic programs and teacher and administrator staffing are discussed. Agendas for these meetings are sent out via e-communicator on the Friday before each meeting and are also available on our website.

I would also encourage community members to reach out to us with suggestions for training or information sessions for parents related to any of the topics touched on last night. Example topics include: adolescent mental health, social media, monitoring student behavior, specific cost of safety initiatives, how a school district budget works, what happens during lockout, lockdown and active shooter drills, how to speak to your child about school shootings. We will organize discussions or presentations on any topics that you feel would be helpful. Please contact us.

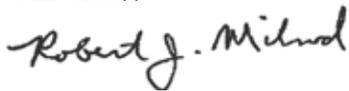
Last night, there appeared to be consensus on the opportunity for parents to become more involved with the working of our Safe Schools Committee. In response to this, we plan to form a Safe Schools Parent Advisory Committee. Members of this Committee will meet quarterly to review the work of the Safe Schools Committee and to provide input regarding best “next steps” for our Safe Schools Committee and/or Board of School Directors to review and act on. The Committee’s first meeting will be on April 25 at 7:00 pm (location TBD). Director of Special Education and Student Services Mrs. Michelle Lutz and Supervisor of Student Services Ms. Dionne Fears will serve as administrative liaisons to the Committee and will send an invite out to the community in early April so that interested residents can sign up to serve on the Committee.

Lastly, at the Safe Schools Forum last night members of the audience expressed an interest in raising private donations to support safer schools. If any member or members of the Upper Moreland Community would like to take this on in the form of developing a Safe Schools Foundation or Charity, please contact me directly and we will work to provide you with whatever District support you need.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Safe Schools Forum last night, please note that there is a copy of the model referenced last night up on our School District website. The URL for the model may be found here: <http://www.umtsd.org/Page/5652> . Once on the page, click at the bottom (where it says view the UM Safe Schools Model) to access the interactive model. Clicking on any measure displayed on the model will bring you to a narrative explanation for the measure.

Thank you for your continued interest in the safety of our Upper Moreland students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Milrod". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robert J. Milrod
Superintendent of Schools