
SALVATORE GONCALVES
Superintendent
February 16, 2018

Members and Friends of the Bloomfield Community:
Thoughts & Reflections on the Tragedy in South Florida

Dear Friends:

I write to you all today with a heavy heart; both for the tragedy that occurred in Florida and with the recognition that all our students and their families across the country continue to fear the otherwise joyous experience of going to school. This paradigm shift is not acceptable and we must work together toward a cultural change with parents, community leaders and law enforcement. Granted these partnerships are all in place, but we need a new collaborative approach that focuses on what students need right now and in the future to feel safe. Bloomfield will continue to look at our safety practices and procedures to ensure we have the resources in place to make this happen.

The tragedy of this week has become all too common yet we must not become complacent and we must never accept these devastating events as the new normal, but we must continue to be proactive. Toward this goal, you will all see a heightened Bloomfield Police Department presence and our district administrators are reminded to consult their protocols and emergency response procedures as outlined in our district emergency management plan.

We all understand that without comprehensive school security, meeting high quality educational standards is impossible. Without assurances that staff and students are secure in their educational environments, student success in the classroom is unattainable. For the past five (5) years of my Superintendency, I have been blessed with the support of my Board and community to make substantial monetary commitments to school security (including the current budget appropriation, and recently completed, security upgrades including anti-intruder locks). With the cooperation and input of my Principals, we have retained a new security firm at both the middle and high school and we continue to work in conjunction with our police department in joint funding for our school resource officers. I stand in agreement with New Jersey School Board's Association that their report [*What Makes Schools Safe*](#) is an excellent start to continue this dialogue and discuss what further modifications are necessary and appropriate for the Bloomfield Public Schools.

During this healing time, Bloomfield has substantial resources available to students and a link to guidance and crisis resources has been added to the district's homepage. As always, I stand personally ready to answer your questions and on behalf of the entire administration and Board of Education, I thank you for trust, partnership and assistance as we refocus our attention on what matters most – pupil safety, family and community support and resources to assist everyone during this process.

Sincerely,



SALVATORE GONCALVES
Superintendent of Schools