

July 17, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is going through a difficult time right now, and, as the superintendent of Charles County Public Schools, I can assure you that we are going to do all that we can to address every challenge we are facing. We are working closely with the Charles County Sheriff's Office, Health Department and Center for Children to be sure that victims receive the support they need. It is during times of adversity that people must work together, and we appreciate how our community has come together during this tough time.

During the recent press conference regarding the allegations against Mr. Carlos Bell, I promised our community that Charles County Public Schools would act to review our hiring procedures, review curriculum regarding sexual harassment/assault and review our employee training processes. I also promised to communicate with our community to make this process as transparent as possible. The following steps have already been taken:

1. A public webpage was activated on July 6, 2017, to communicate and provide transparency with our community. <http://www.ccboc.com/investigationupdate/#>
2. Information nights for Benjamin Stoddert Middle School staff and parents have been scheduled.
3. The Charles County Center for Children announced that it will provide free therapy for victims of sexual abuse during and after the investigation.
4. New lessons have been selected to help students recognize the signs of sexual harassment and/or assault and how to get help.
5. CCPS has partnered with the Center for Children to conduct nationally recognized training for all employees on how to protect children from sexual abuse. This is an enhancement to the required training already in place. More information on this training can be found at <https://www.d2l.org/education/stewards-of-children/>.
6. CCPS hiring practices have been reviewed and will be posted on our website, including the steps we take when an employee is accused of misconduct.

We will continue to keep you updated as we move forward through this difficult process. I stand firm in my belief that the actions of any one individual do not represent the goodness of the 3,500 people who work for Charles County Public Schools. Our people are strong, and we will not be defined by the actions of any one person. We will be even stronger as we navigate the days ahead.

Thank you for your support of Charles County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools