



Dr. Charles J. Pearson, Superintendent of Schools • 3855 Lucas & Hunt Rd. • St. Louis, MO 63121 • www.normandyssc.org

Normandy Families & Community,

Some of you may have heard or seen the news reports regarding the Security operations in our school district. I want to assure you that as Superintendent, the safety of our students and staff is paramount and the reason why we have responded quickly and thoroughly to address some of the concerns that have been raised – both internally and externally.

When we learned of the incident last month at the 7th-8th Grade Center, we immediately launched our own internal investigation to get answers. We interviewed witnesses, reviewed video, and worked with local law enforcement to get to the facts. In doing so, we learned of some deficits that we have begun to address.

One of the reports stated that the St. Louis County Police Department “barred” our security officers from carrying “any” protective devices. Actually, we initiated the contact with St. Louis County Police and have been working with Det. Michael Kaufman – who oversees the licensing and certifications for security officers throughout St. Louis County – to determine the proper certifications and equipment requirements for school security officers. Contrary to what was reported, it was a mutual decision by Normandy and St. Louis County Police to limit our security officers’ possession of certain protective devices until all questions were resolved. In the meantime, the St. Louis County Police Department has agreed to provide training to security staff which will include instruction for one of our officers to become an on-site trainer for the Normandy Security staff. But it should be noted: all Normandy Security Officers are properly licensed.

All of our security officers have certification but we have learned that there are variations in the credentials. Through our partnership with the county police, we are initiating training this month to ensure all security officers have the certifications necessary for their roles. This training will continue throughout the summer.

We are also reviewing the reporting and compliance requirements for the security function. This is an area where we are collaborating with the St. Louis County Police to ensure the appropriate records are submitted in a timely manner and in accordance with county and state regulations.

The Coordinator of Safety and Security position is being re-evaluated. The person who previously held this role has separated from the Collaborative. This is an opportunity for us to re-examine this role in light of today’s safety and security challenges and opportunities. We are confident in our ability to attract several qualified candidates and hope to have someone on board by August 1.

When challenges are presented, my team and I take them on as opportunities to re-evaluate, re-examine, and position our district to improve and progress. The Normandy community is resilient and committed to the success of our students and staff. We will continue to work collaboratively with our partners and allies to ensure the safety and security of our students and staff.