

## **PALISADES PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to provide you all with an update as to our district's participation in the National School Walkout Day from earlier this morning. As our country continues to grieve, such an event allowed for a true educational experience that went beyond our textbooks and curriculum within our schools.

At Palisades Park Jr./Sr. High School, we provided our students with the opportunity to express opinions, while staying connected to our mission. The resolve displayed by each student who spoke was extremely courageous. The stories they told were both informative and inspirational; they are the true leaders of our schools! Lindbergh Elementary School participated in the "walkout" with staff members releasing white balloons to honor those that lost their lives. The staff and students at the Dr. Charles R. Smith, Jr. Early Childhood Center congregated on the playground to Sing the National Anthem, had a moment of silence, and released white balloons that contained the names of all the victims. While the students at the elementary level were not all made aware of the circumstances behind the balloon release, it was important to come together as a district.

In coordination with the Palisades Park Police Department, the event was done in a safe and orderly manner. Students who chose not to walk out were respected, and supervised inside of our schools.

As always, families are asked to speak to their children as they see appropriate. If parents need any guidance on effective ways to communicate on such a topic, please contact your respective Building Principal.

Respectfully,

*Dr. Joseph Cirillo*