

PALISADES PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dr. Joseph Cirillo
Superintendent of Schools

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Palisades Park Community,

Recent news articles have focused on the hiring of retired police officers to provide security in our schools. In light of new information, I have taken the following actions:

This morning, I met with the Palisades Park Chief of Police to review the background checks of each hired officer. I was reassured that each officer assigned to our schools has complied with NJ state law regarding background checks, and has met the qualifications for the possession of a firearm. I have also required that evidence of valid permits be shared with the Board of Education prior to the officer's placements in our schools.

Additionally, I have contacted the New Jersey Department of Education to inquire about the possibility of these retired officers participating in School Resource Officer Training. I am strongly encouraging that these officers attend such a program.

I am grateful for the Borough's efforts to protect our students following the events of the Parkland school shooting, last February. However, I also assure you that we will take all the time that is necessary and make every effort to be certain that ANY person assigned to our schools possess the proper credentials to hold such a position. Please check our website to keep abreast of progress related to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Dr. Joseph Cirillo