

November 3, 2009

Dear Hellgate Elementary School District Residents:

As you may be aware, Hellgate Elementary has been the focus of some recent attention with respect to its response or lack of response to allegations of bullying, intimidation, and harassment occurring at Hellgate Elementary. I want you to know that I, along with all individuals working at Hellgate Elementary, am deeply concerned over the recent allegations of bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Bullying impacts all school districts across our great country and Hellgate Elementary is no exception.

As such, I have put in place the following directives to address the issue of bullying, intimidation, and harassment at Hellgate Elementary.

1. All principals and counselors will routinely meet to review what programs are in place within each building and to discuss how they are working to help students and staff understand what bullying is, how to proactively address bullying, and how to safely report bullying to adults so measures can be put in place to stop and prevent acts of intimidation, harassment, bullying, etc.
2. I have formed a committee of school counselors whose task is to review current, successful school district based bullying prevention programs that can be coordinated across grade levels that can provide sustainable educational opportunities for students and staff in the area of bullying prevention.
3. Principals will work with their staff personnel to heighten awareness, but especially to heighten awareness while on playground supervision duties, to be alert to potential bullying behaviors and to act to eliminate those behaviors.
4. I have undertaken a study on how to best get information out to parents on what district policies and procedures are with respect to bullying prevention and the legal steps that a parent or a student can take to report incidents of bullying.
5. The school board has requested that periodic updates be made at school board meetings as to the progress on these initiatives. This will be done.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I share your concern about the harmful consequences that bullying, intimidation, and harassment can have on a student. Hopefully, these efforts that I have put into motion can assist in heightening district awareness and build a bridge for increased school/parent partnerships to reduce incidents of bullying, intimidation, and harassment, at Hellgate Elementary.

Sincerely,

Douglas Reisig, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary
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