



PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION
PALMYRA, NJ 08065

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent of Schools

Administrative Office
301 Delaware Avenue
856-786-9300
Fax: 856-829-9638

William R. Blatchley
*Business Administrator/
Board Secretary*

March 31, 2014

Dear CSS Parents/Guardians:

I am writing you today as a follow-up to the threat and subsequent evacuation that occurred this past Friday, March 28, 2014, at the Charles Street School. Our students and staff did a fantastic job at reporting and responding to the incident! In a very short period of time we were able to safely transition the entire student body to the Community Center while the Palmyra Police Department conducted the necessary investigation.

At approximately 9:45 AM a bomb threat was discovered written on a stall door in a student restroom. A student who discovered the message immediately reported the threat to the main office. Administration was notified and at that time the decision was made to evacuate the building as a necessary safety precaution. Due to the cool temperature and light rain, I made the decision to re-locate the students to the Community Center. Students were escorted by staff to the Community Center, attendance was taken, and an orderly process was enacted for the dismissal of students to parents/guardians who decided to pick-up their child early. The district's broadcast system was utilized to notify Charles Street School parents/guardians of the threat and the actions being taken by the district.

The Palmyra Police Department, in conjunction with other agencies, conducted a thorough search of the school building and determined that the threat was a hoax. At approximately 11:45 AM the Palmyra Police Department declared the school safe for the students to return. District school buses were utilized to transport the students back to Charles Street School, and students were able to dismiss at the scheduled early dismissal time. A broadcast was delivered to Charles Street School parents/guardians advising them that the building was safe and that students were returning to the school.

An investigation of the bomb threat is being conducted by district administration and the Palmyra Police Department. Appropriate disciplinary actions will occur once determination can be made as to who wrote the bomb threat. Making threats to students, staff, and/or district facilities is a serious offense and the school district will seek appropriate redress.

I would like to thank our terrific staff, the members of the Palmyra Police Department, emergency responders, the Borough employees working at the Community Center, and our parents/guardians for the wonderful assistance and demonstrated patience during this emergency situation. Our students remained safe and secure during the entire ordeal which I directly attribute to the terrific efforts of these individuals. Please feel free to contact Mr. Pease or me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent of Schools

cc: M. Pease, CSS Principal
S. Ozalis, BOE President