



**PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**PALMYRA, NJ 08065**

Brian J. McBride  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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William R. Blatchley  
*Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary*

September 29, 2015

Dear Charles Street School Parents,

Yesterday, at approximately 2:00 PM the Charles Street School experienced a second unsubstantiated threat found written in a boy's restroom. The nature of the threat prompted the district to initiate our security response procedures and begin a process of screening students, lockers, and book bags to ensure that no device or weapon was present. As you are well aware, this event occurred within six days of the previous one, and much like the first threat the decision to proceed with the upmost precaution was made in collaboration with the Palmyra Police Department.

The Palmyra Police Department conducted a thorough search of the entire building, and utilized county and state resources to assist them in this process. The sweep of the building produced no device or weapon, and as such the Palmyra Police Department declared the Charles Street School safe for school operations at approximately 6:15 PM on Monday evening. Sadly, too many incidents of school violence have occurred in our country, and today schools must prepare for and respond to threats with the assumption that the threat is genuine.

I believe that the written threats made at the Charles Street School are the mischievous work of students. The district is working very closely with the Palmyra Police Department as we conduct a thorough investigation which includes: review of classroom sign-in/sign-out sheets, review of restroom inspection logs, and review of video footage of the hallways. Additionally, district administration will be conducting interviews with a number of students who may have direct knowledge of these incidents. In response to these threats, the Charles Street School will be increasing security measures within the building to reduce the opportunity for students to engage in behavior that is inappropriate.

An important component for stopping these threats is for parents to speak with their child about the importance of following school rules, reporting inappropriate behavior, and reinforcing the understanding that a threat against a person or property is not only criminal, but dangerous. I commend those students who discovered the threats and immediately reported the information to school personnel! The Palmyra School District will seek the maximum allowable consequences against any person, to include a student, who has levied a threat against students, staff, and

***"Education Takes Teamwork"***

facilities. Parents who may have specific information about the person(s) who may have written these threats are encouraged to contact the Palmyra Police Department immediately.

In closing, I would like to personally thank our staff, students, parents, and emergency responders for remaining calm and safely working through these emergencies. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any questions, concerns, or specific information to share about these unfortunate incidents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian J. McBride". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being the most prominent.

Brian J. McBride  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: M. Pease, CSS Principal  
N. Brett, BOE President  
Chief Pearlman