

Honeywell Update- November 18, 2015

I share this message with you five days after the terrorist attacks in Paris and Beirut. This is an unfortunate reminder that we are living in a fragile world, and as always, I have the safety and security of the children in our schools very much on my mind. I know that at the same time we work to keep students safe, we must be vigilant against overreacting to such events that occurred last week. With this in mind, I have been diligently thinking about how we must strengthen security in our schools while being sensitive to the emotional response our students may be having to the violence to which they are exposed in the media and other information outlets.

To address these concerns, I have created a new committee comprised of stakeholders who will meet regularly to improve the safety of our children and the security of our building while being vigilant against an extreme answer to current crises.

I will share details of the committee's progress in my next Honeywell. I invite everyone to attend the November 23 Board of Education meeting at which Officer Curbelo and I will talk about the school-police liaison's role both on the district safety committee and in our schools.

Please take a moment to talk to your older children about the Beirut and Paris crises. Consider if your younger children have been exposed to the news and begin a careful conversation. Below are two resources recommended by psychologist and noted expert on social-emotional learning Dr. Maurice Elias that may help you engage your kids about difficult topics:

http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/strategies_10.html

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/talking-about-difficult-topics/>

Wishing you and your family a good night. My next message will be broadcast on December 2.

#17505