



June 30, 2022

Good evening, parents, and Coatesville Area School District Employees,

I wanted to share some information that we discussed at our June 28th School Board. First, I am happy to share that Kathryn Lamothe, who is currently serving as an assistant principal at Coatesville Area Intermediate High School, was appointed as the principal of the 6th Grade Center at Scott Middle School. Her start date is effective July 1, 2022. Kerry Meyers, who has been serving as the assistant principal at Rainbow Elementary School, was appointed as the principal of Reeceville Elementary School. His start date is effective July 1, 2022.

Back on June 15th, 16th, and 20th, five of our school board members, Ms. George, Chief Galbraith, Mike Sobczak, Jamie Estrada-Zurita and I meet with parents, students, community members. We also met with local pastors on the 22nd of June. On each of those nights we presented on and discussed the following:

- Our current Student Code of Conduct/Discipline Matrix
- The due process afforded to students who violate the Code of Conduct
- The services we currently provide students and families, what we are planning to add to our support services for students and families
- What current safety and security measures we have in place and what we are going to do to increase safety and security measures for next year

We dialogued with those in attendance, and we listened. Each night following the initial discussion, we started to incorporate some of the suggestions from the community into each of the presentations. As a result of those meetings, we will continue to communicate with the staff and the community on our plans moving forward. We will be creating a district communication that explains the entire due process including the rights and expectations of students who violate the Student Discipline Code of Conduct. We will also include in this communication the rights and expectations of teachers, administrators, and parents. This video communication will be online for anyone to view (in August), and it will also be presented by the building principals prior to the start of school. Building principals will be sending out the dates for evening parent meetings prior to the start of school in August to discuss the Discipline Matrix. These meetings will also give the students and parents a chance to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the expectations and school rules.

We will be hosting additional meetings to share and discuss, with parents, our Student Code of Conduct which is contained in our Coatesville Area School District Progressive Discipline Matrix. These meetings will take place on July 14th and July 20th at 7:00 PM in the CASH Auditorium. The Discipline Matrix has been posted on the Coatesville Area School District [Website](#). We are asking people to read the matrix prior to the meetings on the 14th and 20th. In lieu of hard copies being provided we will post a QR code at the entry ways of the auditorium to pull up a digital copy on your smart phone for your use on the night of the meetings. We will be looking at the document and discussing the document with those in attendance. We will share the results of these meetings with the school board and will be bringing our Code of Conduct and our Discipline Matrix before the board on July 26th for its annual approval.

The goal for reviewing our Code of Conduct in more detail is to better align the Code of Conduct with the mindset that will foster a more positive school climate and culture. The Coatesville Area School District defines school climate

as the quality and character of school life related to relationships, teaching and learning, physical environment, and safety. Positive relationships are critical to creating a positive school climate. School leaders set the tone and expectations for the entire school community paving the way for all members of this community to take simple yet meaningful steps to improve school climate. It is necessary for us to adopt a culturally responsive practice for student expectations that is supported and implemented by students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

On another note, at the July 12th Operations Committee Meeting, we will be presenting a draft of the Master Facilities Plan to the board and the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard F. Dunlap Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Richard F. Dunlap Jr., Ed. D.
Substitute Superintendent
Coatesville Area School District