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April 7, 2022

Dear Erie High School families:

We hope you are taking care of yourselves as we all continue to process the events of April 5. Please know that the entire Erie's Public Schools family, including the administrators, teachers and staff of Erie High, is here to help support you in every way we can.

We have been working closely with the administration of Erie High School and the Erie Education Association during the last couple of weeks to address concerns regarding safety and security. We are accelerating that work and will continue to work together as we finalize a plan for the safe return of staff and students to school.

In the coming days, we'll communicate detailed information about that plan, but we want to let you know now about some of the major changes you can expect to see resulting from the collaborative discussions with Erie High administration, district administration, and the EEA. Changes to safety and security protocols will include, but will not be limited to:

- Modifications to interior doors where necessary to allow all teachers to lock classroom doors from the inside.
- Updates to the intrusion system, to include audible alarms at all exterior doors.
- The installation of fully functioning metal detectors.

We are also reviewing our security camera system to eliminate identified blind spots.

These changes will not be in place by the end of Spring Break, April 18, which means a period of virtual learning will be necessary. All changes will be in place by the time students return to school in person. More information will be shared shortly.

Incidents like the one we experienced on April 5 are traumatic for all involved and healing will take time. Please remember that in-person counseling is available for all EPS staff, students and families at the Erie Center for Arts and Technology, 650 East Ave., and at Family Services, 5100 Peach St., from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. this week. Virtual counseling options are also available. To schedule a virtual counseling session, please call 814-874-6801 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Polito, CPA  
Superintendent, Erie's Public Schools

Donald Orlando  
Principal, Erie High School

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