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Ms. Gail Lanza  
Acting Superintendent of Schools

**STERLING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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April 11, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I would like to thank all of the parents who attended the special Board of Education workshop meeting that was held last Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss student discipline practices. Our student safety, both physically and emotionally, is a mutual priority. The meeting had a nice turnout and it gave parents an opportunity to voice their perspectives on our school's discipline practices. Please know that we listened and heard your concerns and statements. As a result we are taking some initial action steps.

- 1) We will continue to reflect on and review our current practices in alignment with effective research on positive school climate and discipline.
- 2) We will engage Eastconn to administer a school climate survey to students, staff and families that will include questions to gather information about perceptions of school climate, safety and discipline. The information gathered will be used to inform our ongoing strategic planning work.
- 3) We have contacted CABA and Shipman & Goodwin for their most current discipline policies so that the Board of Education policy committee can review and possibly update our current discipline policy. We will communicate with parents and staff when this subcommittee is scheduled to meet.
- 4) Shari Ternowchek (principal), Laura Smith (clinical supervisor) and I have put into our calendars informal *Coffee and Conversation* times to occur at the school the last Thursday of each month from 10:00-10:45 AM and again from 6:15-7:00 PM. This will provide open communication opportunities with families.
- 5) During our Strategic Planning process, two draft goals have been identified that support a positive learning environment. They include: Sterling Community School will cultivate positive, caring and supportive relationships reaching students, family and community stakeholders; and: Sterling Community School will provide a safe, healthy, and supportive environment for learning where students build resilience. The Strategic Plan, in its entirety, will be presented to the Board of Education at the May 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting where action steps and timelines will be shared.

Our goal is to work collaboratively in partnership to create and ensure positive student outcomes so that together we can make Sterling Community School the best place it can be for our students and staff. Shari, Laura and I can be reached anytime by email or phone if you have anything you would like to discuss with us.

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Take care and enjoy your upcoming spring vacation with your children.

Sincerely,

Gail Lanza  
Acting Superintendent