

East Lyme Public Schools

P.O. Box 176 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

SUPERINTENDENT
James D. Lombardo, Ed. D.

April 8, 2011

Dear East Lyme Public School Families:

All of us were saddened to learn that a part-time East Lyme Middle School teacher and high school band advisor was arrested last week and charged with sexual assault. While I have been constrained by the sealed warrant from sharing specific information regarding the matter, I do want you to know a few facts in light of the April 7 court arraignment of the former employee.

1. Within a few hours of our receipt of information regarding the allegations, the employee was placed on leave, pending the outcome of the investigation. We immediately reported the allegations to the police and the Department of Children and Families, who are charged with investigating any such allegations. District staff worked closely with authorities during the investigation that led to the arrest. The employee has resigned from employment with the East Lyme Public Schools, effective April 6.

2. Our information indicates that these allegations involve a single victim off school grounds. We have no knowledge that any other students were ever at risk.

3. I expect that information of a sensitive nature may be released from the warrant at some point after the April 7 arraignment. Your child may hear of these details through news reports or from other students. As a result, I encourage parents to discuss such information with their children in a manner that is appropriate for the age and maturity of the individual child. The best way to respond is often to listen to children's concerns and to assure them of their safety.

4. We do not intend to engage students in discussions about the allegations or the details of the case; nonetheless, our counselors and school psychologists are available to meet with any students to assure them of their safety and to hear any concerns. A list of staff names and numbers follows:

Flanders School (860-739-8475)

Mr. Vidar Haaland – School Psychologist

Lillie B. Haynes and Niantic Center School (860-739-3961)

Nancy Doyle – School Psychologist

Middle School (860-739-4491)

Mr. David Costa - Counselor

Mr. Scott Hunt – School Psychologist

Ms. Jennifer Lathrop - Counselor

Ms. Michelle Saporito – School Psychologist

Ms. Meredith Tukey – Counselor

High School (860-739-6946)

Ms. Nadine Barnes – Counselor

Ms. Michelle Dean – Counselor

Ms. Marcia Goldreich – Counselor

Ms. Deborah Kelly – Counselor

Ms. Allison Kosswig – Counselor

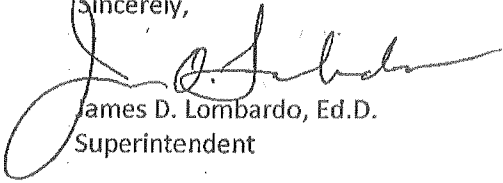
Mr. Chris Mountain – School Psychologist

Ms. Lisa Ramaccia – Counselor

Dr. Michael Sullivan – School Psychologist

The safety and welfare of our students is always our primary concern. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-739-3966, your child's principal, or any of our schools' counselors or psychologists. As always, thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lombardo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

James D. Lombardo, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Cf: BOE Members
ELPS Staff