



Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

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Dear Parents and Guardians in the PGCPS Community:

As a lifelong educator and leader of this school system, ensuring our students receive a quality education in a safe environment is my top priority. That is why, last month I created a new Student Safety Task Force, an independent review board, charged with the responsibility of reviewing everything in our system related to child safety.

The establishment of the Task Force is a vital and critical step in evaluating our processes and procedures in the wake of the horrible tragedy committed against some of our students at Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School. As the FBI and police lead the investigation to find out exactly what happened, we are fully-cooperating with their efforts. At the same time, we are meeting with our staff and faculty to share our expectations regarding child safety, and to review our training and procedures.

The work of this independent Task Force will be comprehensive, examining and assessing the school system's policies, procedures, practices and key strategies related to the protection of our students, including background checks, reporting of abuse, volunteers and more. The Task Force will also develop recommendations to enhance or improve how we address student safety.

We take this matter and the work of the Task Force and its recommendations – due on or before May 2 – seriously. In the meantime, we are taking action daily to reinforce our zero tolerance policy of reporting suspected child abuse and we are meeting with our principals, teachers and employees to help ensure they are clear regarding their responsibilities.

As a father, grandfather, educator and a member of this community, this is personal to me. I believe it is our duty to protect the children in our care. Please be assured, I will continue to do everything in my power to keep our children safe and that is my promise and commitment to our students, parents and guardians, and the Prince George's County community.

Respectfully,

Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer