

February 17,2018

Dear Paramount Unified School District Families,

The recent school tragedy in Florida leave us morning the loss of life in this senseless act of violence, and we are left wondering how it can be avoided in the future. The safety of our students and staff is of grave concern to all of us at all times.

Although there is no absolute guarantee that something like this will never happen again, I want you to know that safety in our schools is a top priority for our District. The Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) considers our school buildings safe places in the community, and the District takes many measures to reduce the probability of an incident that could harm students or staff.

PUSD conducts safety trainings in schools every year. It is through practicing lockdowns, fire drills, duck-and-cover and shelter-in-place procedures, and other scenarios that students and staff can be prepared for an emergency. Additionally, the school system has established safety committees that meet regularly, we manage an extremely collaborative relationship with law enforcement officials in the City of Paramount who are an extension of PUSD operations and the District is continually evaluating its safety protocols across every level throughout each school year. We also have campus security officers and school resource officers who are available in our schools every day.

Further, it is important to recognize that everyone plays a critical role in school safety. Students, staff and the community are encouraged to be observant and let an adult know if they see or hear something that makes them feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened, and especially if they hear threats of dangerous behavior. If you ever have any doubt, contact law enforcement immediately.

Finally, I know we can all agree that violence is never a solution to any problem; however, we must prepare in every way for how it could affect our lives. To that end, you should feel assured that PUSD operates daily with safety as a top priority for everyone who sets foot on our campuses and into our buildings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ruth Pérez, Superintendent