

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Ms. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
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TO: Parents and Staff at Francis A. Desmares Elementary School
FROM: Kari McGann, Superintendent of Schools
DATE: June 20, 2019
RE: Student and Staff Safety at Francis A. Desmares Elementary School

The safety of students, staff members, and visitors on school grounds is of the utmost importance to the district and community. As your Superintendent I work closely with our local and state emergency personnel to protect staff and students.

On the afternoon of Wednesday, June 19, it was reported to me that a high level access key for Francis A. Desmares was missing from school grounds. I informed the Raritan Township Police. The investigation is ongoing with our Raritan Township Police Department to determine the missing key's whereabouts and circumstances surrounding the missing key. The missing key had access to some, *but not all*, outside and interior doors at Francis A Desmares School. The missing key *does not* have access to other district school doors, neither outside nor inside.

The Facts:

- The Raritan Township Police, in partnership with the Superintendent, Director of Facilities and Grounds, Building Principal, and Business Administrator met at Francis A. Desmares Elementary School on Wednesday evening to investigate and secure the building.
- The school was thoroughly reviewed, checked and searched by members of the Raritan Township Police Department, the Superintendent, Director of Facilities and Grounds, Building Principal, and Business Administrator. There was *no* suspicious activity, nor any evidence of foul play.
- The building is secure and the alarm was activated, which is our standard practice when the building is not occupied. No one was able to enter the building during the evening without the alarm being activated. Our alarm works even if the power goes out.
- The school district is already scheduled for an early dismissal today and Friday.

A licensed, professional locksmith, the Director of Facilities and Grounds, and the Superintendent were on site late into the evening on Wednesday and into the wee hours on Thursday morning. The licensed, professional locksmith worked long into the evening to disable all the locks to the outside building doors that the high access key worked in, thus making the missing high level access key functionless for the outside doors. For added protection and a sense of security, a Raritan Township Policeman will be on site at Francis A. Desmares tomorrow morning throughout the day and into the evening. The Y program will continue as planned. A Raritan Township Policeman will also be on site at Francis A. Desmares on Friday.

As your Superintendent I am confident in our plans to ensure safety of our students and staff. Our Raritan Police Department also remains confident. Please contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kari McGann,
Superintendent of Schools