Region 14 Schools
Inspiring Excellence

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

The last couple of weeks have been trying times for the Region 14 school community. Many have asked why neither the Board of Education nor I have sent any information out to parents/guardians. Honestly, because many of the topics are related to individual students, I have not been able to comment.

I regret how much negativity this has brought to our school community in light of the many good things we are doing for students in Region 14. I have been and continue to remain open to dialogue on how to continue to grow our schools and inspire excellence for all.

I'd like to share with you our understanding of the status of Region 14 with the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) as of the date of this letter, based upon our interactions with staff at the CSDE.

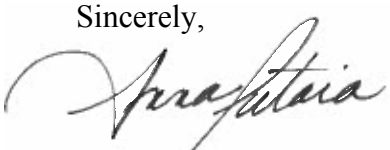
- Two departments at the CSDE are reviewing individual cases/complaints. These departments are the Bureau of Special Education and the State's Title IX and Bullying Office.
- The Region 14 School District is not being considered for take over as a Turnaround district or school. Adrian Wood and Regina Hopkins both report to Desi Nesmith who is the Chief Turnaround Officer. Therefore, the Turnaround Office's involvement is a function of how the department is organized.
- We have been informed by the CSDE that there is one open special education complaint in Region 14. This is not the first nor will it be the last complaint filed in special education in our school district. The complaint process is federally defined and occurs in ALL school districts. It is a process that allows further parent voice and is strictly defined and carefully mediated. We are in the process of providing information to the CSDE on this complaint. To the best of our knowledge, other complaints involving special education issues that may have been reported in the media at this time have already been heard and resolved with the office of the Bureau of Special Education.
- We have been informed that there are 7 alleged bullying concerns shared with the CSDE. Two of them occurred between 10 to 20 years ago. The legal office of the CSDE is reviewing those two and will determine if they will be moved forward to

Adrian Wood. Adrian Wood and Regina Hopkins met with me and other Region 14 staff this week on one bullying issue in order to gather more information and evidence to determine appropriate next steps. At this point in time, we have no specific information regarding the other four bullying issues brought to the attention of the CSDE, or whether there will be further review.

- Of course, we have been cooperating and will continue to cooperate with the CSDE with respect to any follow up or any further investigations (if they should take place).

As I receive further information about these matters, I will update you.

Sincerely,



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