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9/28/2017

**Anti-Bullying, Anti-Violence Task Force
Note to GAPS School Board and Administration**

Given the recent spate of serious behaviors we are seeing in our schools this year, I am convening a task force to investigate and research ways for us to prevent and be proactive in dealing with this issue. Compounding this problem is the relatively new issue of the use of social media (including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and various community forums) to harass, incite violence and attack individuals. Finally and sadly, we are seeing these issues arise in our younger populations with a large number of incidents occurring at the elementary school level!

I have directed a group of district administrators to help lead this process for GAPS. We will also invite some community groups, police, fire and other governmental agencies to join in to this process. The following list gives you a brief sketch of items I would like for this group to discuss and engage in. At the end of this process, I am asking that the group present to the School Board a list of possible recommendations for remediating these problems and an estimate of the approximate cost for these activities. I am directing our team to convene their work early in January and deliver their recommendation to the board by the March 2nd school board meeting.

Tasks to Accomplish

1. Identify and define what bullying is, so that everyone will have a common understanding of what we mean by bullying. Secondly, when does bullying become a crime?
2. What are our current district policies on bullying and school violence and are they adequate to deal with the problems we are currently seeing?
3. Identify best practices for the prevention of bullying and violence in schools. Secondly visit school districts in Oregon where these best practices are being implemented.
4. Conduct at least one community meeting/forum to gather information and listen to patron concerns and suggestions on bullying and school violence.
5. Identify possible partnerships with other public and private agencies or groups to leverage resources and bring them to bear on helping to solve these problems.
6. Explore "social justice" constructs as a possible means for ameliorating some of these issues.
7. Estimate costs for possible purchase of materials and training for staff, students and parents.
8. Report these findings to the school board by the March 2nd school board meeting.

Sincerely,

Jim Golden
Superintendent