

**CENTRAL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT LEADERS ANNOUNCE
ACTION PLAN TO PREVENT AND COMBAT BULLYING**

BERKELEY TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY --- (February 16, 2023) ---Central Regional School District leaders today announced an action plan to prevent and combat bullying.

Addressing journalists prior to a regularly scheduled school board meeting, newly appointed Acting Superintendent Douglas Corbett said, "Everyone at Central Regional School District and High School mourns the loss of Adriana Kuch. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends in this difficult time. The circumstances of her passing are disturbing and we share the community's shock."

Corbett outlined a series of prospective elements of an action plan to improve the District's programs to identify, prevent, and respond to bullying cases. He stressed that the action plan is preliminary - more actions may be identified - and invited recommendations from parents, faculty, students, and the broader District community.

These prospective initiatives include:

- Organization of a steering committee, including parents, to evaluate and update our approach to bullying and other issues;
- Retaining an outside party to examine our policies and our responses to this crisis;
- Reviewing the District's cell phone policy;
- Scheduling a student assembly to discuss bullying, social media risks and related contemporary issues;
- Establishing a toll-free hotline operated by an outside party, for students to call (anonymously if they wish) if they feel threatened physically or online;
- Arranging guest speakers for student assemblies focused on avoiding and preventing risky behaviors;
- Arranging for education and information sessions for parents to help them better understand bullying, harassment, and other issues impacting our students;

- Additional training for faculty, staff, and parents to recognize potential problem situations and how to help; and
- More frequent communications with parents and guardians and the broader community about new and existing programs and services.

“These are just a few examples of ideas and we look forward to developing these and other initiatives further,” Corbett explained.

He also noted that the District maintains a policy on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying according to State law and Department of Education requirements, including procedures for addressing bullying incidents. Central Regional staff members are assigned to anti-bullying programs and the District maintains a professional staff devoted to other child safety and welfare categories.

The District also trains and maintains a 27-member crisis team which is mobilized when needed.

“Determining how best to improve on these priorities, and implementing effective solutions will take time. But we will not stand still,” Corbett said. “We are committed to learning from this tragedy and listening to our parents, students and our community.”

Central Regional High School has an enrollment of about 1,500 students in grades 9-12. The District includes the municipalities of Berkeley Township, Island Heights, Ocean Gate, Seaside Heights and Seaside Park.

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