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March 17, 2021

Dear Cherry Hill Public Schools Community,

The Cherry Hill Board of Education and the Cherry Hill Public School District are appalled at the news of the multiple murders in Georgia on March 16, 2021.

We understand the difficulty in learning of this event at a time when many in our community are struggling with the one-year mark of our drastically curtailed lifestyles due to the pandemic. I am especially concerned about our Asian students and families, who may already have felt rising levels of concern for their own safety.

Our guidance counselors and student assistance counselors are available at their office phone numbers and email addresses listed on our school websites and will respond quickly to students and families who reach out to them. Additional resources, including how to help children cope with traumatic events, are listed on the [Student Assistance page of our District website](#).

As I have mentioned during other crises, our school district works every day to provide a safe and welcoming environment in which our students learn and grow, whether students are attending virtually or in person. We have [policies and practices](#) in place to make sure everyone in the Cherry Hill Public Schools community has the opportunity to learn and work in an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect, free from bullying or harassment. We do not discriminate on the basis of color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, transgender status, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, veteran status or disability, and we continue our dedicated work in Cultural Proficiency, Equity and Character Education to ensure constant improvement in these vital aspects of education.

Once again, we are increasing our outreach during this difficult time. Please join me in working together as a community to condemn all acts of violence and to support one another through these challenges.

I encourage you to reach out to me at [jmeloche@chclc.org](mailto:jmeloche@chclc.org) to share your thoughts or request a phone conversation.

Please stay safe and well.

Regards,

Dr. Joseph N. Meloche  
Superintendent, Cherry Hill Public Schools