

## NORTH KINGSTOWN SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dr. Frank Pallotta Interim Superintendent

June 22, 2023

North Kingstown Community,

As we wrap up our year together, our District will be hard at work this summer laying a strong foundation for a successful year ahead.

Part of building that foundation is ensuring our school community - our faculty, staff, students, coaches, and administrators – all have access to important workshops and trainings that support and encourage a safe, productive, and inclusive learning environment for all.

As you may be aware, our District has been taking important steps to support this – from drafting a new, comprehensive anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policy to having our dedicated School Committee Policy Sub-Committee meet multiple times to review and vet this policy. While many parents have been engaged in this work, as we move forward, I want to ensure our families and community continue to be involved.

We have engaged legal experts at Barton Gilman LLP to review our current policies on the topics of Title IX, anti-discrimination, and anti-harassment, and understand ways our school community can more effectively be made familiar with these policies and protocols. Specifically, they have been tasked with surveying a baseline of how familiar our community is with these policies, which will help us create effective, useful workshops in the fall in response to our community's understanding and needs.

Our legal experts at Barton Gilman LLP will be reaching out to you this week with a multiple-choice survey. Participation will be completely anonymous and completely optional. Data collected will be public information, and will give our community a better picture of how informed our District is on these policies.

Though the multiple-choice survey will not ask for any information or commentary around individual experiences, we recognize the policy topics are sensitive in nature. I've asked our legal experts to include a list of resources that you are welcome to explore on topics our policies cover, like suicide prevention, children's counseling and support services, healthy relationships, assault, and harassment. Those resources will be listed in the survey link sent to you this week.

Thank you for your time and engagement in our schools,

Dr. Frank Pallotta,

Interim Superintendent

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