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To Parents, Students & Other Community Members,

The Washington Township and Westwood Police Departments take school safety very seriously. As a result of an alleged assault, which occurred at Westwood Regional High School, there have been a number of additional security measures put in place to enhance the safety and security at Westwood Regional Schools. Some incidents were not immediately reported to the public, as the matters remain under investigation. Often times, these investigations follow a time table which does not feed into the immediacy that we have become used to in society. Please also realize that details of juvenile investigations are confidential.

The investigation of the initial incident by the Washington Township Police Department has essentially concluded. The Washington Township Police Department has consulted with the Bergen County Prosecutors' Office and the appropriate charges have been filed. We have reviewed social media that has a nexus to this situation and will continue to monitor social media as it relates to the safety of Westwood Regional Schools moving forward.

We are in constant contact with the Westwood Regional School District's administration throughout this situation and we have collaborated in the best interest of our school community. We have implemented temporary measures to enhance school security and are discussing more permanent measures. It is important for the community to understand that the Westwood Regional Schools are safe. We worked with the school administration to identify best practices for school safety from an internal standpoint. Several of these practices have been implemented by the district. The police departments also agreed to conduct enhanced walk-throughs of all the district's schools so there is overlap and an increased presence.

We would be remiss if we didn't ask parents to engage in difficult conversations with their children. Remind them of the, "See Something, Say Something" approach in order to prevent issues that may escalate. The Police and the School Administrative Teams are willing to listen to any concerns brought forward.

Please know that we remain committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those attending or visiting the Westwood School facilities. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance.

Chief Richard Skinner
Chief of Police

Michael R. Pontillo
Chief of Police