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Dear Community Members,

As you know, a series of events on the westside campus at Western Connecticut State University prompted a lockdown in several of our schools on November 20th in the afternoon as schools were preparing to dismiss. Because I place the safety and security of all of our community members at the top of my priority list, I wanted to update you on the responsive steps I am taking this week to continue to refine and strengthen our response to unexpected emergency situations like we experienced last week.

On Monday, November 26th, my leadership team including our Coordinator of Sites and Facilities, Coordinator of Security, Director of Finance, and other Central Office administrators, met with the Danbury Chief of Police and his team in order to review and discuss the effectiveness of our response during the critical first moments of these events. Following our debriefing, we remain committed to each of the following priorities to supplement our existing safety and security protocols:

1. Continue to enhance centralized communication of critical information to our administrators located across our 22 District buildings, which will include a text-based communication method in real time;
2. Work to designate a liaison to the Police Department who will be located in our Central Office to help coordinate the flow of critical information between City officials and responders, in order to providing greater clarity and accuracy of information; and
3. Establish clearer protocols for communication, in consultation with the Mayor, with our educational partners across the City, including our non-public schools, Henry Abbott Tech, Western Connecticut State University and Naugatuck Valley Community College.

We all wish for a community free of such emergency events, but without that guarantee, we are committed to consistent improvement of the ways in which we can respond. With consistent debriefing following events such as these, I am hoping that we can quicken response time, improve the effectiveness of our communications to you, and most importantly protect all members of our community. As we round the corner to the end of year school break, I want to thank all of you for your many contributions to the success and well-being of our students, and I wish you all a peaceful holiday season.

Dr. Sal