



November 14, 2023

Dear Porter Community,

I write to inform you that a former Columbia Public School employee was arrested for sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor. Clearly, any allegation of inappropriate contact with minors is disturbing and causes concerns about the safety of the children in our school community. Columbia community members should be reassured that the safety of children is the district's foremost concern. The Columbia Board of Education has adopted robust policies and procedures to promote the safety and wellbeing of all our children.

Members of our community who have information or concerns regarding this matter or any concerns or allegations pertaining to inappropriate contact with students are encouraged to contact me. Any such concerns may also be reported directly to law enforcement and/or the State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Parents may also contact any building administrator.

It is with great regret that I must share this information with you today. As educators, we are entrusted to protect and educate all of our students. Maintaining appropriate faculty-student relationships and providing for the safety and wellbeing of our students at all times are critical. My hope is that this horrific and appalling situation will not cast a shadow over the important work carried out by the Columbia School District's teachers and staff members, who provide an outstanding education and safe environment for our students every day.

Barbara Wilson  
Interim Superintendent