



WINCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Jason Van Heukelum, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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WPS Staff,

As we gear up for a new and exciting academic year in WPS, I want to reinforce a commitment that I know we all share and take very seriously — a safe learning environment for all WPS students and staff.

Many of you are probably aware of the recent news coverage by local and national news media concerning a local matter of student-involved sexual assault and harassment and WPS' handling of the issue.

While I cannot specifically address the reported allegations, due to federal and state laws and school board policies concerning confidential student records and information, I can confidently say this: Every allegation brought to me involving sexual assault and harassment is taken seriously and investigated thoroughly, consistent with the school board's clear policies on such matters.

Because I see and experience your enormous passion for our students daily, I know we all share a deep commitment to some core principles:

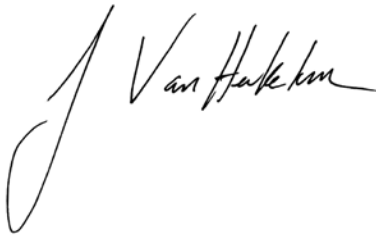
1. **We are concerned about the well-being of our students.** We are devoted to helping every student achieve success and care genuinely about their welfare. An essential part of student achievement is the knowledge that they are safe at school, and I know each of us is dedicated to providing such an experience for every student.
2. **We take sexual assault and harassment very seriously.** Our school division does not tolerate or permit prohibited harassment and attacks of any kind against our students and staff. Period. Importantly, we are unwavering in our responsibility to work with students and their families to address concerns of assault and harassment and ensure an emotionally and physically safe learning environment.

3. **We believe every student should be supported and secure in our schools.** We are committed to doing everything within our power to provide a supportive and safe atmosphere for all students.

Should any of you have questions or concerns about our policies on matters of assault and harassment, I encourage you to get in touch with me. My door is always open.

Thank you for your diligence and support in providing a safe learning environment for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason Van Heukelum". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jason Van Heukelum
Superintendent