

Press Release on Student Matter from Dr. William George, Superintendent of Middletown Township Public Schools

The school district cannot discuss the educational program, personal wellbeing, or other confidential information regarding any student. The board of education, administrative team and entire staff strive to provide every student with the appropriate education, learning environment and services to maximize student potential. The diverse educational, social, emotional and developmental needs of our students are continually reviewed. The Middletown Public School District staff and I take pride in making every effort to improve the educational environment for all students. Further details regarding any individual student's program in the district would be contrary to the many federal and state requirements protecting student confidentiality.

I can confirm that as soon as a formal request was made by the parent for discussion of this issue with the Administration, I reached out to the parent to arrange a meeting. Today, August 18, I met with the student and her parent to discuss this matter at length. Although the student is welcome to return to Thorne Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year, we are now in the process of investigating alternative placements at the parent's request. As is our regular practice, we will work with this student and her parent to agree upon the placement that best meets her educational, social and emotional needs in the least restrictive environment.

Mr. Thomas Olausen, Thorne Middle School Principal, stated " The Thorne administration and staff members pride themselves on character education and welcome diversity. This student is welcome at Thorne, and if she chooses to attend Thorne, she would be treated with the respect and inclusive opportunities that all students deserve."

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the district's position on this very important student matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William O. George III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'W' and 'G'.

Bill George

William O. George III, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools

Middletown Township Public Schools

(732)671-3850, ext. 1002

georgew@middletownk12.org