

The Public Schools of  
**NORTHBOROUGH and SOUTHBOROUGH**  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
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March 3, 2016

To the School Community:

As Superintendent of Schools for the Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough, I need to inform you of the current situation that exists within our District regarding allegations of financial impropriety. Upon review of my concerns, I immediately launched an investigation. Working in partnership with local law enforcement, a decision was made to contact the Worcester County District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office immediately assumed a lead role in the investigation. Simultaneously, the District's legal counsel assisted in securing the services of a forensic auditor experienced with school related fraud.

The information provided to District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.'s Office led to the swift arraignment of the District's budget officer, Christopher Hoey, on "charges of larceny over \$250 by common scheme, embezzlement by a public official and uttering". He is currently held on \$100,000 bail and criminal proceedings are underway.

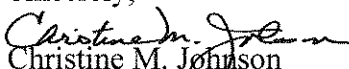
We are moving thoroughly and expeditiously. Efforts are underway to recover these funds as well as to ascertain the manner in which these funds were allegedly embezzled. At the conclusion of our investigation, we will review findings and recommendations regarding procedural safeguards.

This information is unsettling and difficult to comprehend. These actions are in direct conflict with our core values. Each year the District participates in annual auditing of its financial records, budgeting and business systems. We work collaboratively with our Towns to ensure that all budget requests address the needs of our students and align with our communities' fiscal environments.

In the last few days, it has become increasingly clear that no school district or business is immune from unscrupulous individuals who may engage in fraudulent activities. I want to assure you that this investigation will in no way affect the safety and well-being of our students. Our mission, which is to provide the highest level of educational experience for all of our children, is of paramount importance and is reflected in the dedicated and talented professionals who work each day on behalf of our students and communities.

We will use this information to become stronger as a school and community. I ask that you continue to partner with us through this difficult time. As this is an active investigation, I am not at liberty to share additional information at this time. I have asked all District staff to redirect any inquires to my office. As always, I am available to listen to your concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Christine M. Johnson  
Superintendent of Schools