

A Message to our ELPS School Community

Good morning East Lansing staff, students and families,

As our community continues to heal from last Monday's deadly shooting on the campus of Michigan State University, ELPS will continue its support of our students and staff as we recognize that healing from this tragedy is a process and may take weeks, months or even longer for some. My heart was filled to see the photos and videos of many of our high school floor hockey participants who spent much of their Saturday making yard signs to display along Burcham Drive and cutout hearts with positive messages to stick on dorm windows as the community welcomes students back to campus (see our Facebook page). I've included some information below about Spartan Sunday, an event organized to welcome students back to a clean, loving and supportive campus today.

In addition to continued availability of our school counselors, social workers and facility dogs to support our students, the City of East Lansing will have counseling services available this week as follows:

- Hannah Community Center (819 Abbot Rd.): Monday, Feb. 20 - Thursday, Feb. 23 from 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- East Lansing Public Library (950 Abbot Rd.): Tuesday, Feb. 21 - Friday, Feb. 24 from noon - 5:30 p.m.

Therapy dogs will continue to be available at both locations on an intermittent basis. These crisis support services are available to anyone in the community. MSU has published a webpage with additional information about crisis support services being offered on campus and virtually: <https://caps.msu.edu/emergency/feb2023crisisresponse/index.html>.

Please reach out to your student's teacher(s), counselor, social worker, administrator or other trusted adult if additional support or resources are needed. We are here for you. Thank you and take care - Dori Leyko, Superintendent

Reminder - No School for Students Monday, February 20

There is no school for students Monday, February 20 in recognition of Presidents Day. We are also watching the potential winter storm that may enter the region later this week, so please make sure your contact information is updated in Power School in case of a school closing.

Kindergarten Information Night this Thursday, February 23, 2023

Kindergarten Information Night will be held Thursday, February 23 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at MacDonald Middle School (1601 Burcham Drive). This is an informational event for all families of prospective kindergarten and Young Fives students, including families

who plan to apply for Schools of Choice this June. An additional Kindergarten Roundup event for our incoming students will be held at each building later this spring. Here is a flyer for the event: https://elps.us/downloads/district_-_kindergartenyoung_5s/kindergarten_information_night_flier_2023.pdf

Next Board of Education Meeting – Monday, February 27, 2023

Last Monday's Board of Education meeting went into recess (and eventually adjourned) when we received word just after 8:30 p.m. of an active shooter on the MSU campus. In addition to Board meeting attendees, our boys' lacrosse team and a few individuals remaining from our girls' basketball triple-header were in the high school when the community-wide Shelter-in-Place was ordered. Approximately 100 individuals remained inside ELHS until we were released around 12:30 a.m. We were thankful to have ELPD onsite throughout the night to provide updates and guidance and as a presence outside when everyone was cleared to leave.

Prior to the meeting's recess and adjournment, new Board of Education officers were elected, and the public comment portion of the meeting was held. Board officers for 2023 are Terah Chambers, President; Elizabeth Lyons, Vice President; Tali Faris-Hylen, Secretary and Kath Edsall, Treasurer. The resignation of Trustee Debbie Walton from the Board of Education was announced (see details below regarding that vacancy). We thank Trustee Walton for her service on the Board for the past two+ years and for her advocacy, support and recognition of our ELPS students and staff.

The ELPS Board of Education will hold its next meeting Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium in East Lansing High School. The meeting will be held in person and will be live streamed. If you have a disability that prevents you from attending the meeting in person and would like to give public comment during that portion of the meeting, please contact Kelly Hocquard at kelly.hocquard@elps.us by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Here is a link to access the live stream and to view previously recorded meetings: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/east-lansing-high-school-east-lansing-mi>

Applicants Sought for Open Board of Education

The East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education is seeking candidates to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education resulting from the resignation of Debbie Walton, effective February 13, 2023.

The Board is asking interested parties to send a letter of interest to Tali Faris-Hylen, Secretary of the Board of Education at 501 Burcham Dr, East Lansing, MI 48823 or by email to kelly.hocquard@elps.us.

Letters of interest for this position should include any background and experience for the Board to consider and must be received no later than February 24, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

Applicants will then be contacted to schedule interviews with members of the Board.

The appointment for this position will begin no later than March 15, 2023 and will expire December 31, 2024.

ELHS Safety Enhancement Plan Updates & Stakeholder Survey Data

Here is a link to the presentation that was scheduled to be given at last Monday's Board of Education meeting. The slides include summary data of the stakeholder survey and the status of the safety recommendations that were included in the initial plan.

https://elps.us/downloads/district_-_miscellaneous_documents/elhs_safety_enhancement_plan_-_progress_updates.pdf

We will provide an update on progress at the February 27 Board of Education meeting.

Watch for an Email to Opt in to ELPS Text Message Eblasts

Currently, ELPS utilizes email and robocalls to communicate urgent information. Please watch your email this week for a message that will allow you to opt in to also receive district notices via text message.

BOE Resolution on Common Sense Gun Laws and Family Resources on Gun Safety, Gun Storage and Communicating with Your Students and with Other Families Where Your Students May Go to Play

(Resending this message and resources to all families - last sent in summer 2022)

As school and community leaders who care deeply about the safety of our children, we are providing some resources to families around gun safety, gun storage and communicating with your children and with other families where your children may go to play. On June 13, 2022, the East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a Resolution to Enact Common Sense Gun Laws – here is a link to that resolution:

https://elps.us/downloads/school_board_-_documents/common_sense_gun_laws.pdf

Here are some resources for families that support the contents of this resolution:

Talking to Your Children about Guns: https://besmartforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BeSMART-Talk-to_kids_0913171.pdf

Asking About Secure Gun Storage: <https://besmartforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Asking-About-Secure-Gun-Storage.pdf>

Secure Storage Practices to Reduce Gun Violence: <https://besmartforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/BeSmart-Secure-Storage-Fact-Sheet-012521A-1.pdf>

Spartan Sunday - Welcoming Students Back to Campus (from the City of East Lansing's website)

Community members are invited to be a part of welcoming students back to a clean, loving and supportive campus by participating in Spartan Sunday this Sunday, February

19. Volunteer registration is closed, but individuals are welcome to show up to be a friendly and welcoming face for students.

Here is some additional information about the event: https://serve.msu.edu/service-project.cfm?projectID=4595&fbclid=IwAR0uLCClxt8ecM_OlfFSG4OgDRAXtIjMMAHid6Aywkud7pyDcgCIQjWWFE0