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February 20, 2018

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members:

In light of the recent school shooting in Florida, La Porte Community Schools will be hosting a meeting, in early March, of the La Porte County Safe School Commission. This Commission was established in 2013 and meets annually for the purpose of planning prevention and response procedures for schools in La Porte County. Contributing to the discussion and decision-making will be representatives from school corporations in La Porte County, city and county government, law enforcement, and emergency responders.

At our upcoming meeting, we will be reviewing the facts surrounding the shooting in Florida in order to identify potential areas in which we can improve our practices. Unfortunately, there is no fool-proof plan that can totally eliminate the chance that a shooting could occur in our schools. However, we can and **will** strive to do everything possible to be prepared to respond to such emergencies. First responders and law enforcement who respond to our schools need to know what the school procedures are during a crisis. It is beneficial for county schools to have similar response practices so that first responders know what to expect when they arrive on the scene.

What we know from the various shootings and school crisis situations is that no one action, practice, or intervention fits all. Every one of these events is unique. One effective intervention that minimizes crisis situations is the reporting of suspicious individuals. Reports should be made on those observed participating in any activity that poses a direct or indirect threat to the safety of others. To protect the anonymity of those reporting, the La Porte Community School Corporation has a **Safe School Hotline at 219/324-1380**. This dedicated line is for the purpose of gathering information to help us prevent harm to students and staff.

We embrace the responsibility we have to provide a safe and secure atmosphere for students and staff. We look forward to working with you, our school safety teams, and the La Porte County Safe School Commission to maintain a safe learning environment for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Francesconi".

Mark Francesconi