



Carroll Independent School District

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Superintendent, David Faltys, Ed.D.

May 16, 2007

Dragon Family,

As educators, we are devastated by news that a CISD employee was arrested for an inappropriate relationship with a student. While I cannot comment on the specifics of this case, I can assure you that the safety and well-being of our students and staff are always top priorities. The individual is no longer working for the district, but the repercussions of this situation reach much farther than just one or two individuals; it affects us all.

It is sad that today's news might somehow overshadow the work of more than 1,000 employees who are dedicated to being leaders and role models for our students. We are proud of our employees and their accomplishments, and we have a reputation for hiring highly qualified individuals who choose Carroll over other districts because they want to be a part of the great Dragon tradition – a part of the Dragon family. On the other hand, we cannot stick our head in the sand about problems that continue to plague our society. In fact, here at Carroll we find ourselves in the unfortunate situation of having had two student-teacher incidents within a 12-month period. This is simply unacceptable to us.

So what is Carroll ISD doing to ensure this will never happen again? The answer I give you may be difficult to hear. As much as I would like to reassure you, there is nothing we can do to give us 100 percent assurance. I can, however, promise that we will continue to take our responsibility of selecting and hiring individuals who work with your children very seriously.

There are thousands of applicants who apply for our vacancies every year. We must continue to be diligent as we look for stellar credentials, conduct meaningful interviews, check multiple references, require criminal background checks and ensure we provide effective staff development and training for employees. We will evaluate existing and additional training opportunities to ensure that students and staff alike understand the importance of keeping the student-teacher relationship professional. Still, with all that prevention and planning, there is no guarantee that we will avoid situations like the one we find ourselves in today. As a district, we will act swiftly and effectively to take appropriate action when allegations are brought to our attention.

When one member of the Dragon family hurts, we all hurt. Words cannot express how grateful I am for your support and understanding as we deal with the difficult issues before us. Please join me in supporting our students, our staff and our School Board as we work to provide the best education possible for the children of this community.

Sincerely,

David J. Faltys, Ed.D.
Superintendent