



ATHOL-ROYALSTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1062 Pleasant Street • P.O. Box 968
Athol, MA 01331
Tel: 978-249-2400 • Fax: 978-249-2402
Website: www.arrsd.org

May 25, 2022

Dear ARRSD Community Members,

I write this morning with a heavy heart. Last night in front of the television, teary-eyed, I watched the news describe another school shooting where eighteen students and two teachers were killed. I thought to myself, how these families must feel waiting to hear if one of the victims is their child or parent. Today I ask each of us to take a moment of silence for the people of Uvalde, Texas. I also request that we do our best to be tender with each other, as this tragedy undoubtedly calls us all to ask if we are safe. We are a tight-knit community; tending to students and ourselves is our priority. Schools, where all students are known and feel connected to their peers and teachers, is the most proactive thing we can do.

This morning I received a call from our resource officer. Courtney stated that there would be extra police patrols in the area. Our district has clear protocols for these events. Our police department has worked closely with us in developing these.

I'm sure many of you will be faced with students asking why this happened and how I remain safe in the coming days. Below are several links you can use to help you frame the conversation with our students.

Talking to Children about Violence

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/school-safety-and-crisis/school-violence-resources/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

Children and Trauma

<https://fs.hubspotusercontent00.net/hubfs/6899005/Content%20Subscription%20Library/Trauma%20and%20Trauma-Informed%20Systems/Children-and-Trauma.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darcy Fernandes".

Darcy Fernandes
Superintendent
Athol-Royalston Regional School District