



## Statement from the Plum Borough School District Board of Directors

*May 19, 2016*

Today, we were made aware that the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas released its final report from the grand jury which, for more than nine months, investigated several sexual abuse cases in our School District.

As a Board, this is the first time we have seen this report and it is a lengthy document. We will need some time to thoroughly read and digest its contents in order to fully understand any recommendations or insights that it contains. We want to review what the grand jury has heard, what it concluded, and what it is recommending.

While we are relieved that there are no indictments, we will conduct an internal review based on this report as it relates to the District's policies, practices and people. While it took the grand jury many months to investigate and reach this point, we must determine what recommendations made in it are either currently being addressed or need to be, and if any further actions may be required or taken by this Board. We anticipate this review to be completed by early June.

There is no question these cases have challenged our District to set the bar high in terms of our child safety guidelines and reporting process. We have taken meaningful corrective actions and measures – including the development of a safe and supportive schools committee, revised policies and procedures, and training. We are focused on more effective transparency, communication and scrutiny when it comes to staff/student relations, with particular emphasis on social media and staff awareness of warning signs and reporting requirements.

Our focus continues to be on how best to ensure the safety and well-being of our students. We believe that our school district is better prepared than ever in protecting our students.

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