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Dear Newton Community,

I am writing with some very upsetting information regarding one of our teachers. We just learned that Steven Chan, a long time math teacher at Day Middle School was arrested on child pornography charges. We have been told by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office that the investigation does not involve any Newton students. As you can imagine, this news is very difficult for everyone in the Day and the broader community to absorb. It is even more shocking in light of the events at Underwood just a year and a half ago.

We are and will continue to work very closely with our partners in the Newton Police Department and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office as the investigation continues. As we approach the opening of school, the Day crisis team will be prepared to support students, parents and staff. Day principal Brian Turner will be communicating directly with the Day community regarding more specific plans for next Tuesday. We will work closely with Principal Turner to maintain stability and daily routine during this challenging time.

The news of a Newton teacher's arrest and arraignment on such serious charges for the second time in a year and a half has a real impact on the entire Newton community. Due to the media attention focused on the matter, we know that students will be talking about information that may make them feel shocked, anxious and angered. While I expect that many of you will speak with your children about the sensitive nature of the allegations, they may need additional support. If this is the case, the staff in our buildings will be well prepared to address their concerns. As the school year begins, we will pay special attention to the social and emotional needs of all of our students and encourage you to share any concerns you may have with our faculty, staff and administrators.

Given the seriousness of this incident and the concerns it raises, we will be holding a community meeting on Tuesday night, September 3rd at 7pm in the Day Auditorium. This meeting will provide an opportunity to ask questions and hear from both law enforcement authorities and mental health experts.

Thank you very much for your understanding. We want to do everything possible to support the Newton community and we will continue to provide information to you as we work together during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

David Fleishman
Superintendent of Schools