



## River Valley School District

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May 26, 2017

Dear River Valley Community:

On May 18, 2017, River Valley School District was notified by the Berrien County prosecutor that four staff members were being charged with misdemeanors around the issue of failing to report suspected child abuse. The failure to report charges focus on the case of a former student and are alleged to have occurred in 2015 and 2016.

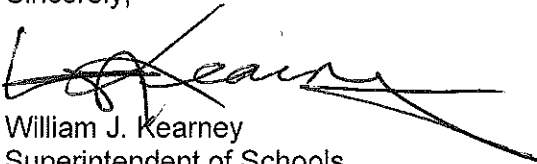
A District employee did in fact report suspected abuse in December of 2015. The district was subsequently notified by the state in February of 2016 that the evidence from their investigation did not support the concern and no further action was being taken.

We have a District policy that puts the needs of our children and community first. The policy is consistent with the law, and every teacher and school administrator is informed of the policy and procedures annually. We expect every staff member to report suspected abuse immediately.

The four staff members were expected to be arraigned on the misdemeanor charges of failure to report, over the course of the week of May 22, 2017. The district has notified the staff members of the impending charges and provided them with additional copies of the school policy on reporting suspected abuse. The district will wait to see the outcomes and facts, prior to considering whether disciplinary action should be taken.

While this is difficult, we will remain focused on our educational mission as well as celebrating the many outstanding accomplishments of the students and staff at River Valley this past year. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at 756-7675.

Sincerely,



William J. Kearney  
Superintendent of Schools

**“Home of the Mustangs”**