

Paulsboro Public Schools

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Dr. Roy J. Dawson III, Superintendent

September 15, 2022

Good Day Paulsboro School Community,

I have some unfortunate news to share with the community. Last Friday night, September 10, 2022, during our football against Woodstown High School our Marching Band students were subjected to the most undeserving, heinous, behavior that we often do not think could happen in South Jersey.

While our Marching Band was performing and mingling with the other members of the student body they were taunted, belittled, and subjected to racial slurs by spectators of Woodstown High School.

I was informed of the incident the following morning and quickly contacted the Woodstown High School Superintendent. She adamantly expressed her concerns and apologized for the behavior of the spectators. The Superintendent promised a thorough investigation and a corrective action plan to address the situation.

This unfortunate occurrence is a microcosm of the situation in our Country. Students were visibly upset. Many or most of the students have never witnessed behavior of this sort, nor have they been subjected to any type of bias or hateful racial slurs.

Our students held their composure and continued to perform. They rose above the circumstance and for that, I am proud. Our Paulsboro Pride was truly on display. I want to thank our Marching Band Director, Mrs. Jenna Ouellette for keeping our students safe and comforting them during this unwarranted time. Many of the students shared with Mrs. Ouellette how upset they were.

I and several members of the Paulsboro High school staff met with the student members of the Marching Band and heard their concerns. They were hurt, ashamed, and embarrassed by the behavior of the Woodstown High School Student body. I shared with them how proud I was of them to persevere and were able to continue to perform.

The Woodstown High School Superintendent and I will continue to discuss remedial plans to address this unfortunate occurrence. The safety and emotional wellbeing of our students is a priority of my leadership as your Superintendent. We will update the Community as we continue our dialogue and remediation with the Woodstown High School District.

Sincerely,


Dr. Roy J. Dawson III, Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Paulsboro School District is to work with students, parents, educators, and community to develop excellence in education while preparing each student to be viable and productive citizens in society. Our goal is to develop the unique potential of the whole student by creating a challenging and diverse learning climate that prepares students for the 21st Century and is rich in tradition and pride.