



Pittsfield Public Schools

Administration Center
269 First Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

www.pittsfield.net

Joseph Curtis
Superintendent

jcurtis@pittsfield.net
Tel. 413-499-9512

March 6, 2025

Good afternoon Pittsfield Public Schools Community,

On Wednesday, February 26, 2025, Principal Luciani of Stearns Elementary School, received an allegation that staff members in Room 7 and Room 1 were using a classroom bathroom in Room 7 as a place for students to de-escalate. Principal Luciani investigated immediately and then informed district administrators of this allegation. Based on the information provided to the district administration, a 51a report was filed immediately with the Department of Children and Families (DCF); the staff members allegedly involved in this practice to correct student behavior were placed on administrative leave on Friday, February 28, 2025.

At this time, we have no information indicating that staff in any rooms other than Room 1 and 7 were involved in this practice. **The families of the students who were reported to be involved in this practice were notified immediately to ensure transparency and open communication.** On March 2 & 3, Principal Luciani communicated with the families of students in Rooms 1 and 7, informing them of immediate staff changes and support for all students in these rooms.

Although this is currently under investigation, the use of seclusion (physically confining a student alone in a room or restricted space without access to school staff) is strictly prohibited under PPS policy STU-46A. Violation of this policy by any employee will not be tolerated under any circumstances. It is also important to mention that the bathrooms in Room 7 are designed **without locks** on either the bathroom or classroom side.

Separate DCF and PPS investigations are ongoing to ensure a thorough process. A full and accurate account of the events has not yet been determined, and we remain committed to gathering all necessary information to address the situation appropriately. We take these allegations with the utmost seriousness and are committed to ensuring a thorough, transparent, and fair investigation. Our top priority remains the safety, dignity, and well-being of every student in our care. Any actions that compromise the trust placed in us by families and the community will be addressed with decisive and appropriate measures.

We recognize the deep concern this situation may cause for students, families, and staff, and we are committed to maintaining open lines of communication as we work toward a resolution. Please know that we will continue to uphold the highest standards of care, accountability, and student-centered practices in our schools.

If you have any questions or additional concerns to report, I encourage you to reach out to Assistant Superintendent Bishop (mbishop@pittsfield.net 413.499.9510) in my absence as we navigate this process with the seriousness it demands.

Joseph Curtis Superintendent Pittsfield Public Schools