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Dear Parents and Guardians,

You may have seen disturbing news reports regarding the recent arrest of Derek Sheehan of Norwell, charged in U.S. District Court last week by Federal Law Enforcement with sexual exploitation of children. Mr. Sheehan is presently in State custody on related State charges. Mr. Sheehan was not employed by Norwell Public Schools; however, Federal and State authorities have asked for assistance in reaching Norwell parents who may have information or questions relevant to the charges, as well as to provide parents with resources and contact information.

This is a very difficult situation affecting our schools and community. There are many unknowns that are deeply troubling to children, parents and educators. Norwell Public Schools will focus on maintaining a safe and predictable learning environment for all of our students. Our administrators, counselors, psychologists, and social worker are available to work with individual families and students as needed. We are committed to supporting students and families during this difficult time. When there is a violation of this magnitude in a small community, many families may be impacted and they will need the support of their schools, friends, and neighbors. This may take the form of being respectful of the privacy of children who may be involved, so we urge the community to refrain from speculation and rumor.

We also urge all parents to be aware of what their children are seeing and accessing online. While it is human nature to ask questions and to turn to social media, this may be unsettling for many children. If you need resources or tips on how to have these conversations with your children, Norwell Public Schools has posted links to agencies providing support. This information can be found on Norwell Public Schools' website under Headlines, titled NTSS Family Connection: [NTSS Family Connection](#).

Beyond the resources provided on Norwell Public Schools' website, the Norwell Police Department can be contacted at 781-659-7979, and U.S. Attorney's Office has provided additional resources and contact information. This information can be found on the U.S. Attorney's website: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr>. Anyone who has questions, concerns, or information about this case should contact the U.S. Attorney's Office at 617-748-3274. If you have concerns about how to address the allegations with your children, please visit the Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center: <https://cac.plymouthda.com/> or the National Child Traumatic Stress Network: <https://www.nctsn.org/>, where you will find links to resources that may be helpful.

Sincerely,


Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,


Chief Theodore Ross
Norwell Police Department