



8601 West Roosevelt Road
Forest Park, IL 60130

708.545.3471
cmoreno@pths209.org

Media Contact:
Cynthia Moreno

For Immediate Release:
July 15, 2019

PTHS D209 REAFFIRMS STATUS AS A WELCOMING AND SAFE DISTRICT FOR ALL STUDENTS AMID ICE DEPORTATION RAIDS

PROVISO TOWNSHIP – In response to the recent announcements regarding targeted deportation raids by Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), Proviso Township High Schools District 209 (PTHS D209) has taken actionable steps to continue to support its diverse student population.

In the coming days, Superintendent Jesse J. Rodriguez will provide resources to principals, students and families on how to prepare when ICE detains and departs members of the immigrant community and how to deal with the anxiety that comes as a result of such a tragic event.

“I want to ensure our communities that PTHS D209 continues to hold its status as a welcoming and safe district for ALL students,” said Board President Ned Wagner. “We do understand that in order for students to learn, they have to feel safe.”

PTHS D209 has established a partnership with PASO (West Suburban Action Project) that empowers students, families, and communities by provide community-based services throughout the year. The most recent event hosted by PASO was a “Know Your Rights” workshop that took place in June at the PTHS D209 District Office. PTHS D209 and PASO will be hosting additional workshops in the coming days.

“As we work to empower all students to become leaders in our community, our Board of Education and District leaders are committed to staying strong for our students and families as we provide comfort and reassurance to help them stay focused on learning through leadership, research, and service,” said Superintendent Rodriguez.

Superintendent Rodriguez stands firm on protecting a public-school system that will strengthen America by protecting the best interest for a significant portion of the student population and building on the policies already in place.

“In moments like this we’ll be known by our humanity and commitment to service as shown in our mission. As an organization we are known for reaching out and supporting that those who are suffering a trauma and we do it with an open heart and mind as per policy and to the extent of the law,” said Superintendent Rodriguez.

PTHS D209 welcomes all students and families regardless of their citizenship, immigration status, or background and its faculty and staff is committed to the physical safety and emotional well-being of all students.

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING PTHS D209 AS A WELCOMING AND SAFE DISTRICT FOR ALL STUDENTS

###

“ONE TEAM, ONE GOAL, ONE PROVISO”



RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM PROVISO TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS DISTRICT 209'S STATUS AS A WELCOMING AND SAFE DISTRICT FOR ALL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, Proviso Township High Schools District 209 ("PTHS D209") is committed to the success of every student in every school, and that our mission is to provide opportunities for successful experiences, so that upon graduation, the satisfied student may pursue any avenue of choice; and

WHEREAS, PTHS D209 is committed to the physical safety and emotional well-being of all students within its control, and is committed to ensuring that all schools and district facilities are welcoming and safe places for students and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is not the mission, purpose or role of PTHS D209 to determine the citizenship or immigration status of any of its students or families, nor to enforce federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, PTHS D209 has adopted Board policies ensuring the provision of equal educational opportunities to all enrolled students, regardless of their immigration status, national origin, or language (PTHS D209 Board Policy 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities); and

WHEREAS, PTHS D209 believes that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, families and community of Proviso Township that it take action to assure all students and families that disruptions to the educational environment that Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") actions may create shall not be tolerated.

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has declared that All children, regardless of immigration status, are entitled to free k-12 education.

WHEREAS, District 209 enthusiastically embraces its responsibility to welcome and educate all students regardless of their immigration status, celebrates their contribution to our diverse learning community, and will not be impeded or intimidated from exercising our responsibility; and

WHEREAS, numerous students whose education, safety, emotional well-being, and family relationships are at risk because of their immigration status are, and will in the future be, enrolled in PTHS D209; and

WHEREAS, federal Immigration law enforcement activities, on or around District property, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, have the potential to harmfully disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status, are entitled; and

WHEREAS, no federal or state law obligates a public school district to devote any resources, financial or otherwise, to the enforcement of federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary source of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, families, and community of PTHS D209 to assure all students and families that it will oppose, to the maximum extent permitted by law, disruptions to the educational environment that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions, or immigration enforcement actions by other law enforcement personnel, may create.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that PTHS D209, shall adopt procedures and practices that assure the following:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that unless specifically required by law or through the order of a judicial warrant District employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives will not use District resources for the purposes of cooperating or assisting any federal immigration law enforcement agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that District employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives shall refrain from inquiring about immigration status or requesting to produce documentation regarding immigration status of a student or parent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that District employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives do not have the authority to determine whether Federal Law Enforcement agency has the legally required authority to enter the District property, or conduct activity on district property, and shall immediately notify the Superintendent if encountering any Federal immigration law enforcement personnel on the School District property,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board hereby prohibits unlawful discrimination or harassment on the basis of immigration status with respect to participation in PTHS D209 programs, services or activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education declares PTHS D209 to be a safe zone for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent permitted by law; and

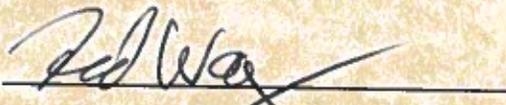
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PTHS D209 employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall not, unless compelled by federal, state, or local law, or subsequent to receiving a signed release, disclose to ICE officers or to any other person or entity any information about a student's or family's immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PTHS D209 employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall not, unless compelled by federal, state, or local law, or subsequent to receiving a signed release, disclose to ICE officers or to any other person or entity any information about any PTHS D209 student that is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or the Illinois School Student Records Act (ISSRA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PTHS D209 shall require a properly executed criminal warrant to justify any arrests, interviews, searches and surveillance, to the maximum extent possible, on school property.

In the event that any Federal Immigration Law Enforcement Agency or Officer seeks to enter the school for enforcement purposes, the designated school administrators will:

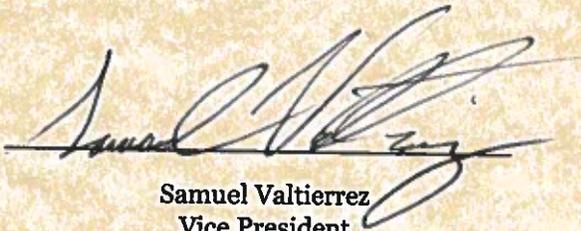
- (a) Request and record the identification of all agency or law enforcement officers making the request and the reasons for the requested entry;
- (b) Notify the officers that they must have a criminal judicial warrant authorizing to effectuate an arrest;
- (c) If the law enforcement provides a court-issued arrest warrant or advises administration that he/she intends make an arrest without a court issued arrest warrant, notify our local law enforcement, request that the agent execute the arrest outside school grounds, request enough time to consider the emotional and physical safety of students and staff, and accompany the law enforcement agents while on the school grounds.



Ned Wagner
President
District 209 Board of Education
Proviso Township High Schools



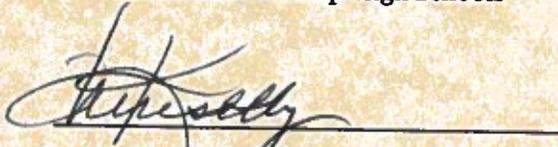
Amanda J. Grant
Secretary
District 209 Board of Education
Proviso Township High Schools



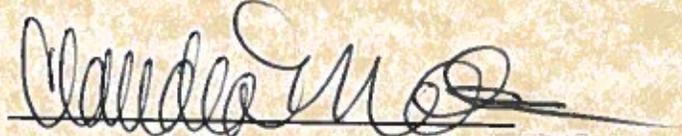
Samuel Valtierrez
Vice President
District 209 Board of Education
Proviso Township High Schools



Arbdella "Della" Patterson
Member
District 209 Board of Education
Proviso Township High Schools



Theresa L. Kelly
Member
District 209 Board of Education
Proviso Township High Schools



Claudia Medina
Member
District 209 Board of Education
Proviso Township High Schools



Rodney Alexander
Member
District 209 Board of Education
Proviso Township High Schools

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Everyone in the United States, including undocumented immigrants, has rights under the U.S. Constitution
Know your rights and exercise them

November 2016

know your LEGAL OPTIONS

1. Legal screenings are critical: Attend a legal screening and know your immigration options. Many undocumented immigrants, including DACA recipients, may be eligible for permanent immigration status such as:

- Victims of crimes
- People afraid to return to their home countries due to persecution or torture, including individuals who identify as LGBT
- Minors who have been abandoned, abused or neglected by one or both of their parents
- Trafficking victims
- Victims of domestic violence
- Green card/lawful permanent residence through a family member or based on employment
- Other options exist!

2. Consult a qualified attorney or BIA-accredited representative: Find a low-cost or free attorney at www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory. If you are placed in deportation proceedings you have a right to hire an attorney, but the government will not provide a free attorney for you.

3. Beware of notaries or bad attorneys making false promises: Some individuals may try to take advantage of you. Seek legal consultations from reputable organizations. Check attorney credentials at www.iardc.org. Report fraud at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/filecomplaint.html.

1

4. Do not sign an immigration document without legal advice: You have a right to seek legal advice and understand the document before signing it. Do not let anyone force you to sign a document, especially a deportation order.

know your SAFETY PLAN

1. Obey traffic and criminal laws and carry a valid state ID and/or work permit:

Do not carry any false/fraudulent documents that do not correspond to your identity. If arrested for any reason, consult an immigration attorney prior to pleading guilty.

2. Practice your response if confronted by immigration authorities: All people have the right to remain silent. If stopped or arrested, you do not have to answer an immigration agent's questions. If an immigration agent knocks on your door and does not have a warrant, do not open the door.

3. Create a safety plan in case you are arrested and/or detained by immigration:

- Identify your emergency contact and memorize their phone number
- Memorize your A number and give it to your emergency contact
- Provide your child's school or day care with the emergency contact name and phone number and provide authorization for the emergency contact to pick up your child
- Provide authorization for your emergency contact to make medical and legal decisions for your child
- Keep your passport, identity information, proof of physical presence in the U.S. and financial information in a safe location. Make sure your emergency contact can access them.

2

know you are NOT ALONE

Many Americans and people in the community stand with you. Join a movement that supports immigrant rights. Be part of local and/or national efforts to build community and empower immigrants, including:

CHICAGO AREA

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: icirr.org
PASO – West Suburban Action Project: pasoaction.org
South West Organizing Project (SWOP): swopchicago.org
Organized Communities Against Deportation (OCAD): organizedcommunities.org

NATIONWIDE

United We Dream: unitedwedream.org
Mijente: mijente.org

3

NATIONAL
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE CENTER
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

CONOZCA SUS DERECHOS

Toda persona en los Estados Unidos, incluyendo las personas indocumentadas, tienen derechos bajo la Constitución de este país
Conozca sus derechos y ejérzalos

Noviembre 2016

conozca sus OPCIONES LEGALES

- 1. Las consultas legales son sumamente importantes:** Consiga una consulta legal y aprenda sus opciones legales. Muchas personas indocumentadas, incluyendo jóvenes con DACA, pueden ser elegibles para remedios inmigratorios permanentes como:
 - Víctimas de crímenes
 - Víctimas de la trata de personas
 - Víctimas de violencia domestica
 - Menores de edad que has sido abandonados, abusados, o maltratados por uno o ambos padres
 - Personas con temor de regresar a su país por a base de persecución o tortura, incluyendo personas que se identifican como LGBT
 - Residencia permanente a base de un familiar o del empleo
 - ¡Existen otras opciones!
- 2. Consulte con un abogado o representante acreditado por la corte de apelación (BIA):** Usted puede encontrar representación legal gratuita o de bajo costo en www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/. Si usted esta en proceso de deportación, usted tiene derecho a representación legal pero el gobierno no le proveerá esa representación.
- 3. Tenga cuidado con notarios públicos y abogados malos quienes hacen falsas promesas:** Algunos trataran de tomar ventaja de usted. Obtenga consultas legales de organizaciones de confianza. Infórmese si abogados tienen la licenciatura necesaria en www.iardc.org. Reporte fraude al www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/consumers/filecomplaint.html.
- 4. No firme ningún documento sin primero obtener consulta legal:** Usted tiene derecho a conseguir consejo legal para entender cualquier documento antes de firmar. No deje que nadie lo forcé a firmar un documento, especialmente una orden de deportación.

prepare un PLAN DE ACCIÓN

- 1. Obedezca todas leyes de tráfico y criminales y cargue con usted su identificación del estado y/o permiso de trabajo:** No cargue con usted documentos falsos que no correspondan a su identidad. Si es arrestado por cualquier razón, consulte con un abogado antes de declararse culpable.
- 2. Practique su respuesta si es confrontado por autoridades inmigratorias:** Toda persona tiene derecho a permanecer en silencio. Si usted es parado o arrestado, usted no tiene que contestar las preguntas del agente inmigratorio. Si un agente inmigratorio toca en su puerta y no tienen una orden de arresto, no tiene que abrir la puerta.
- 3. Prepare un plan en caso de ser arrestado y/o detenido por inmigración:**
 - Identifica su contacto de emergencia y memorícese el número telefónico de esa persona
 - Memorícese su número de registro ("A number") y déselo a su contacto de emergencia
 - Provee el nombre y número telefónico de su contacto de emergencia a la escuela o guardería de su hijo e infórmeles de la autorización para recoger a sus hijo
 - Provee autorización a su contacto de emergencia para tomar decisiones médicas y legales a nombre de su hijo
 - Guarde su pasaporte, información de identidad, comprobantes de presencia física en los EE.UU., e información financiera en un lugar seguro. Asegure que su contacto de emergencia tenga acceso a estos documentos.

usted NO ESTA SOLO

Muchos estadounidenses y gente de la comunidad lo respaldan. Únase al movimiento para apoyar los derechos de inmigrantes. Forme parte de esfuerzos locales y nacionales para empoderar a inmigrantes, incluyendo:

3

AREA DE CHICAGO

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: icirr.org
PASO – West Suburban Action Project: pasoaction.org
South West Organizing Project (SWOP): swopchicago.org
Organized Communities Against Deportation (OCAD): organizedcommunities.org

ESCALA NACIONAL

United We Dream: unitedwedream.org
Mijente: mijente.org

**NATIONAL
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE CENTER**
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM