

May 19, 2019

Parkrose School Board
Parkrose Administration Bldg.

Dear Parkrose School Board Members;

I am a former Parkrose parent as well as a retired Parkrose School District employee.

We have just come through a frightening gun scare at Parkrose High School. As you know, we were blessed to have a staff member who handled the situation and kept students and other staff from being harmed. Yes, he is a hero and I don't want to take attention away from him.

I do, however, desire to bring your attention to another staff member whom you may not realize went in to help students.

Our grandson is a sophomore at Parkrose High School. Due to anxiety issues that he had earlier in the year, we have met him at lunchtime, allowing him some quiet time to eat and relax. Last Friday, we were on our way to meet him when he called warning us NOT to come as the school was in lockdown (I don't text)! We were able to approach the school from 116th and Shaver and parked across the street from the library...out of the way of police but where we could watch for our grandson if the lockdown was lifted.

As the first students were evacuated (special needs students) to a waiting bus, I saw our amazing superintendent, Michael Lopes-Serrao, assisting them. He climbed on the bus to be with them as they were reunited with their parents. Some superintendents might have stayed in their office using phones to be in touch. Others might have been out visiting with the police as to what was happening. Not Michael...he was in with the students and staff, going through the same experience they were. I am confident that his presence helped to maintain a calm environment among those students and staff. Kudos to Michael!

Kudos, too, to the students and staff. From what I witnessed and have heard, students and staff remained calm and followed the procedures they had practiced. They should all be proud of themselves for their actions and for following the requests of the police.

Evacuation was orderly and gave the public a positive view of our students and staff.

Thank you to our First Responders for putting their lives on the line for our kids. There was an amazing turnout from various agencies.

Thank you to our bus drivers who rushed in to evacuate the students. Thanks, too, to Tri-Met, Portland Public Schools, and others who came to assist in the evacuation.

Thank you, School Board Members, for taking the time to read my letter. I am SO proud of our superintendent, our staff, and our students and so grateful that everyone is safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen A. Seipp". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kathleen (Kathie) Seipp
Retired Sp. Ed. Assistant

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Parkross School Board