

For Immediate Release

## **Incident Reported in the Media**

**Saint-Hubert, March 21, 2017** - An alleged sexual assault involving minors was reported in the media in the last few hours. Although the particular facts of the situation require great caution in the information that can be shared, Riverside School Board deems important to make the following clarifications:

- As with every situation involving our students, our priority is their health and safety. To this end, all the students directly involved and their parents were met by the school administration as well as by the police, when necessary, in order to shed light on the facts brought forth.
- Measures were immediately put in place to ensure not only the safety and integrity of the students involved but also that of the other students affected by this situation. Furthermore, support and follow up mechanisms were developed by our Complementary Services team to support the students as needed.
- A communication on the subject was sent by the school to the parents of the students likely to be affected by the situation. These parents were invited to contact the school for any questions related to this incident. Furthermore, the school administration answered the questions of any other parents, not directly impacted by the specific situation, who contacted the school with questions or concerns.
- We are still working with the police in order to coordinate our efforts to follow up on the file and to implement the measures that are necessary in this delicate case. On our part, these measures will respect our renewed commitment in ensuring the respect of the physical and psychological integrity, the dignity, rights and freedoms of all persons as outlined in the Riverside School Board policies and practices and to provide them with a safe and healthy educational environment.

Considering the facts, the state of affairs and the impact of its media coverage on minors, our partners in the police services have urged us to exercise extreme caution in our communication and the information we make public.

- In collaboration with the Agglomération de Longueuil Police Department, information sessions were planned for all of our secondary students on raising awareness regarding respect for others.

Should the allegations underlying the incident were to be founded, we would be saddened by the fact that, despite the security and prevention measures put in place, such an event could occur in one of its schools. In any case, this unfortunate situation illustrates the importance of continuing, with the cooperation of our community, our education in the matter of respect for all.

If you have any specific questions regarding your children or should you want to report an incident or event pertinent to the situation, please contact the school. For any other questions, please contact the school board at 450-672-4010.