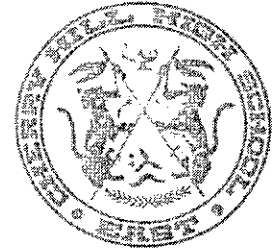


Cherry Hill Public Schools
Cherry Hill High School East
1750 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08003-2598
Phone (856) 424-2222



May 18, 2018

Dear East Community,

Today, I learned that members of our school community were offended by a statement written on our Senior Prom ticket. Specifically, the statement on the prom ticket called for students to, "... party like it's 1776." I am writing to apologize for the hurt feelings this reference caused for members of our school family. It was insensitive and irresponsible not to appreciate that not all communities can celebrate what life was like in 1776. I especially apologize to our African American students, whom I have let down by not initially recognizing the inappropriateness of this wording. You can expect that we will do better as a school community to produce well thought out, appropriate communications.

In an effort to right this wrong and to do better for our students, we are going to take the following actions:

- Students will not be required to bring their prom tickets to gain entrance to the prom. We have a record of who purchased tickets, a name will be sufficient upon arrival.
- All students will receive a commemorative Prom Ticket at the prom. These will feature a new design and will be distributed to all attendees.
- Moving forward in an effort to learn from this experience, safe guards will be added to ensure that a diverse group of people view all information before it is distributed from the school.

I would like to thank members of our school community for their caring and thoughtful conversations while discussing this sensitive issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Perry".

Dennis Perry, Ed.D.