

# Riverview Gardens

## School district

October 22, 2014

**Scott Spurgeon, Ed.D**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

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Dear Mr. McCulloch,

It was recently reported by news stations that the grand jury, convened to hear the case regarding the shooting of Michael Brown by Officer Darren Wilson, would likely complete their review of evidence in the next few weeks. The information on an indictment will then be announced by your office. While the St. Louis community, nation and world are eagerly awaiting the decision, many are preparing for how that decision will impact our communities.

As leaders of school districts, we are concerned about the ability to provide timely, unobstructed travel routes to and from school for the thousands of student walkers, parents and district transportation vehicles once that decision is announced. Information released during the school day has the potential to greatly affect school district operations and we implore you to refrain from making a grand jury announcement until such time as we can provide safe passage home for all students.

While at no time have students been the intentional target of any malicious behaviors, recent responses to the **August 9th** incident has severely impacted the learning environment of thousands. The release of information regarding the investigation, last minute press conferences, protests and police response has led to increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic, presence of local, national and international media, road closures, an inability to access school sites and the rerouting of current school bus routes. We are preparing for similar situations when the grand jury decision is announced.

Please be aware that we have travel route concerns directly and indirectly for students in Ferguson-Florissant, Riverview Gardens, Jennings as well as student transfers at Kirkwood and Mehlville. Students in Hazelwood, Normandy and Special School District will all likely be impacted -- approximately 20,000 students, collectively.

As area superintendents, our mission is to provide excellent academic services to our community with the safety and security of all students as our number one priority. Please assist us in ensuring timely and safe travel for our students by agreeing to announce sensitive information after **5 p.m.** on weekdays or on the weekend, with our preference of the announce from the grand jury occurring on a Sunday, which is a non-attendance day for students.

Feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or if we can be of help in any way.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Scott Spurgeon, Superintendent  
Riverview Gardens School District

Dr. Lawrence Larrew, Interim Superintendent  
Ferguson-Florissant School District

Dr. Grayling Tobias, Superintendent  
Hazelwood School District

Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent  
Jennings School District

Dr. Thomas L. Williams, Superintendent  
Kirkwood School District

Dr. Norm Ridder, Superintendent  
Mehlville School District

Dr. Tyrone J. McNichols, Superintendent  
Normandy School District

### MISSION

*The Riverview Gardens School District, along with families and the community, nurtures academic excellence in all students, preparing them to be college and career ready in an ever-changing society.*

### VISION

*The Riverview Gardens School District creates a community of learners equipped to be competitors in a global society and leaders demonstrating social and civic responsibility.*

#### Special Administrative Board

Lynn Beckwith, Jr., Ed.D.  
Chair, Advanced C.B.M.

Veronica Morrow-Reel  
Vice-Chair, Master C.B.M.

Mark Tranel, Ph.D.  
Secretary/Treasurer, C.B.M.