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September 7, 2022

Dr. Vickie Cartwright Superintendent **Broward County Public Schools** 600 SE Third Avenue Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301

Dear Superintendent Cartwright,

This letter is a follow-up from the Office of Safe Schools' visit with members of the Broward County Public Schools on September 1, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to investigate and discuss the findings released in the Final Report of the Twentieth Statewide Grand Jury, and to that end we appreciate your continued cooperation and responsiveness.

However, before our collective work can truly and credibly ever demonstrate that Broward County Public Schools has seriously embraced safer schools for the district's students and faculty, issues remain that require your immediate attention.

Specifically, we have found the district still has employed district officials from the previous administration who guided failed decisions on school safety including:

- Key members of the prior superintendent's leadership team;
- Staff directly named in the Grand Jury report; and
- Procurement staff associated with the SMART program.

If such staff are continuously employed by Broward County Public Schools – individuals who clearly failed the public in substantially documented and repeated ways – such a lack of action by the district could only be perceived as the district's tacit endorsement of past and future ineptitude.

These remaining district officials have not taken ownership of their barefaced failures and continue to perpetuate an "it is what it is" philosophy that was identified in the Grand Jury report. As the Superintendent, you must take ownership of the future safety of Broward's students and staff with firm, immediate action.

> Тімотну Нау **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SAFE SCHOOLS**

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As you are aware, on August 26, 2022, Governor DeSantis took swift and immediate action to remove the four sitting board members identified in the Grand Jury report. Moreover, our Department has and will continue to move urgently on those issues that were identified by the Grand Jury and merit further investigation. It is now incumbent upon you as the Broward County Superintendent to take real and decisive action that represents Broward's commitment to safer schools for its students and staff.

Sincerely,

Tim Ha

Executive Director, Office of Safe Schools