



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MASSILLON, OH – (October 18, 2018) – The health, safety and well-being of all students is the Perry Local School District’s top priority. As such, the district would ask that the community be understanding regarding the extreme sensitivity associated with the memorialization of past tragedies.

Dr. McGlothlin, an expert who has studied over 70,000 suicidal individuals, has provided the following helpful insight: “In light of the six suicides last year, Perry Local Schools is in a difficult place trying to work with the grief, loss and devastation they experienced. They want to support the notion of remembering those students that died while also protecting students from further suicidal ideation.

“There is a litany of literature from professional learned societies (e.g. National Association of School Psychologists, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, The Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide, Suicide Prevention Resource Center, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, etc.) that provide direction on the memorialization of student suicide. A consensus among these organizations (including myself) report that creating permanent memorials (i.e. statues, monuments, plaques, etc.) are not recommended.”

Dr. McGlothlin stated while such permanent memorials may be helpful to the families of those who died, those who might be going through difficult times may see such memorials as glorifying, highlighting or accentuating suicide.

“It is recommended that memorials are chosen that are temporary, nonrenewable or in the form of a living memorial (such as monetary donation to preventing student suicide),” said Dr. McGlothlin in his statement. “Especially with so many suicides last year, Perry Local Schools do not want to contribute to anything that would potentially increase suicide.”

While the community has faced hardships, Perry Local Schools will move toward positivity and healing together. The district will not forget those they have lost and in doing so will promote “Speaking Life.” The district would like to remember the students in a way that brings life to current and future students of Perry.

“As we move forward together, the district continues to evaluate the most appropriate and effective steps to create an environment with the health, safety and well-being of our students as our top priority and all decisions will be made with this at the forefront of our minds.”

For more information on Perry Local School District, please visit www.perrylocal.org.