



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

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Amy Riccardi, Candidate for School Board – Sterling District, Demands Transparency and Action Amidst Opioid Crisis at Park View High School

Loudoun County, VA - October 31, 2023 – Amy Riccardi, the common sense candidate for the Sterling District School Board, has raised her voice in deep concern over the recent surge of opioid-related overdoses affecting students at Park View High School in Loudoun County. Shockingly, there have been at least 18 fentanyl-related overdoses reported within Loudoun County public schools this year, with eight of these distressing incidents occurring at Park View High School in Sterling, VA, all within a mere 19 days.

What is even more troubling is the delay in communication to parents from the school authorities. Principal Jefferson of Park View High School waited nearly three weeks before sending an email to parents, an email that lacked crucial details about these incidents, leaving parents uninformed about the safety of their children.

Amy Riccardi emphatically states, "Transparency and the right to be informed about the well-being and safety of our children are of paramount importance. Dr. Aaron Spence, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Superintendent, must take the lead in ensuring that parents receive timely and comprehensive information about such critical matters, but he did not. This leaves us concerned that LCPS's track record of cover-ups is continuing under the new superintendent."

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is actively investigating these overdoses, with several taking place within the school premises, necessitating emergency medical interventions, including the administration of Narcan and CPR. All the overdoses appear to be related to fentanyl, often disguised as counterfeit 30 mg oxycodone pills.

Sheriff Mike Chapman has committed additional resources to Park View High School to identify the source and distribution of these lethal opioids. The Sheriff's office has been visiting schools in the county to educate the community about the dangers of Fentanyl. Amy Riccardi expressed her expectation for more proactive measures from LCPS administration.

Amy Riccardi extends her full support to these efforts and encourages LCPS to follow the lead of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office by maintaining open communication with the Sterling community, while also taking proactive measures to enhance security and awareness. "It is our collective responsibility to safeguard our students and provide them with the support and education they need to address this crisis," she stated.

Amy Riccardi firmly asserted, "I am dedicated to ensuring that the Sterling District schools prioritize the well-being of our children." She calls for a transparent and collaborative approach to tackle the fentanyl crisis at Park View High School and across the Loudoun County community.

Amy Riccardi said, "I strongly urge parents and guardians to engage in regular conversations with their children about the dangers of drugs, especially opioids, how they can appear, and how they might be shared. Vigilance is key to identifying and addressing any suspicious activities, and we demand transparent communication from our schools."

In addition she adds, "I also strongly urge parents to engage the school administration in transparent, truthful, and comprehensive communication about what is actually happening in the school. Unfortunately, LCPS does not have a track record of being completely honest about nefarious activities inside the school building so it is incumbent upon parents to lead this effort."

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