

Message from the Superintendent & Board of Education

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Community,

This week, our Yonkers Public Schools family continues to mourn the heartbreaking loss of one of our students. In a season when our schools are typically filled with celebrations, graduations, achievements, and the excitement that accompanies the close of another successful school year, we find ourselves united in sorrow as we grieve the loss of a young life too soon.

Our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences are with the student's family, friends, classmates, teachers, and all whose lives he touched. While words can never fully ease the pain of such a tragic loss, we hope the family finds comfort in knowing that an entire community stands with them during this ordeal.

As a father, I cannot begin to imagine the heartbreak of losing a child. There is no greater pain than losing a son or daughter, and my heart aches for this family as they navigate the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Grief affects each of us differently. Some may feel sadness, shock, anger, confusion, or disbelief. Others may search for answers or struggle to process what has happened. All of these feelings are natural. There is no right or wrong way to grieve, and there is no timetable for healing. What matters most is caring for one another and remembering that none of us must carry this burden alone.

In times like these, the strength of our Yonkers community becomes evident. We come together, support one another, listen, comfort, and stand beside those who are hurting. Our counselors, social workers, psychologists, and support staff remain available to assist any student, family member, or employee who may need support during this difficult time.

The Board Trustees and I ask our entire community to keep this family in your thoughts and prayers. Let us honor this young life by embracing one another with compassion, kindness, and understanding. Let us extend grace to those who are grieving and remember that healing begins when we come together as a community.

The days ahead will not be easy for the Sotomayor community and our district, but we will face them together. As we continue to celebrate our students' accomplishments and look forward to their bright futures, we will also pause to remember a young member of our district family whose life touched so many.

May his memory be a blessing, and may his family find comfort in the love and support that surrounds them.

With heartfelt sympathy,



Aníbal Soler, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools