



**Olga Hugelmeyer**  
Superintendent of Schools

October 6, 2020

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Learning Community:

This afternoon, I reach out to you with a heavy heart as we have lost three members of the Elizabeth Public Schools learning community. It is with great sadness that I share three of our students who attended Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 passed away in a fire that took place last night on Elizabeth Avenue.

Their passings are tremendous losses not only to the Sonia Sotomayor School No. 25 and Jerome Dunn Academy School No. 9 learning communities, but also the Elizabeth Public Schools community as a whole. The positive contributions they made to their school communities and their memory will live on in the many lives they touched.

In order to support our team members and students, we have arranged to have grief counselors available to our school community remotely throughout the week.

On behalf of our team members, students, and the Elizabeth Board of Education, I offer our thoughts, condolences, and prayers to the family and friends of these three students at this very difficult time.

Sincerely,

Olga Hugelmeyer  
Superintendent of Schools

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**