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(951) 696-1600 ♦ www.murrieta.k12.ca.us

Board of Education
Robin Crist
Kenneth Dickson
Paul Diffley
Linda Lunn
Kris Thomasian

Patrick Kelley
Superintendent

August 13, 2018

Dear Murrieta Valley Unified School Community,

Tonight, and tomorrow morning, our school district will be the subject of news coverage with the announcement of a settlement agreement in the Alex Pierce case. His accidental drowning in 2016 was a tragedy and continues to be a terrible loss for his family and the entire school community.

In reaching this mutually acceptable agreement, the parties have concurred that the settlement is not an admission of liability or fault on the district's part even though the financial award to the family is being covered by the district's insurance policies. We recognize that no amount of money will compensate the Pierce family for the loss of their son. The settlement announced today will hopefully provide much needed closure for this devastating incident.

In the aftermath of Alex's passing, our district continues to examine our safety measures, policies, procedures and civic use agreements to ensure we have the most effective safety practices in place. We believe safety is a shared responsibility and we pledge to continue partnering with you in providing students and environment where safety is a top priority.

As we begin a new school year, I'd like to remind our school community that safety information and school site inspections are available on the school district web site, www.murrieta.k12.ca.us, under the [risk management](#) and [student safety pages](#).

If you have any questions please call our district's Public Information Officer, Monica Gutierrez at mgutierrez@murrieta.k12.ca.us or 951-696 -1600 ext. 1022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Patrick Kelley, Superintendent, Murrieta Valley Unified School District