

COMSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes, Superintendent
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Comstock Schools Hosts Panel Discussion to Address School Safety, Healing, and Response

PRESS RELEASE - Kalamazoo, MI - August 23, 2023

In a continued effort to respond to Comstock Community's experience with last month's shooting incident at Comstock High School, the Superintendent of Comstock Schools has assembled a panel to discuss the events surrounding the events of December 12.

Comstock Public Schools will host a Public Forum and Panel Discussion in the Colt Center at Comstock High School on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Comstock High School is located at 2107 North 26th Street in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

The panel will include:

- **Rick C. Fuller**, Sheriff, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department
- **Dusty Jepkema**, Program Supervisor, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo
- **Rida Jones**, School Social Worker, Comstock Public Schools
- **Abra Smith**, Director of Wellness Initiatives, Kalamazoo Youth Development Network
- **Cara Weiler**, Culture and Climate Specialist, Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency

The Board of Education and Superintendent Team aim to achieve several outcomes and benefits as a result of this event including the following:

- Help educate the audience about the emotional impact and toll of traumatic events and school violence including identifying the signs of stress, fear, depression, and anxiety in children and young adults that may result from these experiences.
- Tell parents about the best practices for helping their children deal or come to grips with community violence.
- Give information about emotional and psychological supports and services provided by local agencies.
- Share tangible or actionable advice about talking to children and young teens about violence and the need to report dangerous behavior to adults promptly.
- Review other tips, ideas, or strategies for healing as well as keeping schools as safe as possible.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dr. Jeffrey J. Thoenes, Superintendent of Comstock Schools, at Jeff.Thoenes@ComstockPS.org

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