**Memorandum For: DCSD Parents and Community Stakeholders**

**From: Bradley Gober, DCSD Chief of Police**

**Through: Dr. Devon Q. Horton, Superintendent**

**Date: July 31, 2023**

**RE: Security Enhancements**

The priority of the DeKalb County School District is the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and community partners. As we approach the 2023-24 school year, we want to make sure you know about our recent investments in **two safety enhancements** that help us provide more secure and nurturing learning environments.

**These two cutting-edge safety and security initiatives are the *CENTEGIX Crisis-Alert* and *EVOLV Express*® security solutions**. These safety systems are designed to empower and protect, to help ensure our educational campuses remain safe havens for learning.

The first system, the ***CENTEGIX Crisis-Alert***, is a safety and security system that will be deployed across all DCSD schools. *Crisis-Alert* allows staff and security professionals to request assistance and implement emergency protocols from anywhere on campus, allowing for rapid response and resolution to potential threats. The safety of our students and staff is just a "push button" away with this state-of-the-art system.

**EVOLV Express** is the second system in all DCSD middle and high schools. Unlike traditional metal detectors, *EVOLV Express* utilizes advanced artificial intelligence and sensor technology to distinguish potential weapons and components of weapons from personal items or harmless objects. This non-invasive system respects students' privacy and allows them to walk through the equipment without slowing down or stopping, removing coats or backpacks, or empty pockets. With image-aided alarms, *EVOLV Express* pinpoints the location of potential threats on the student or their belongings, thus improving the overall security of our schools.

It is important to note that *EVOLV Express* does not use facial recognition or collect any personal data, ensuring the privacy of our students is safeguarded. Additionally, the system is designed to focus solely on identifying potential threats rather than individuals, thus reducing possible biases.

The implementation of *EVOLV Express* will significantly reduce screening times, allowing up to 1,000 students to be screened in about 15 minutes, so that students can move freely while feeling safe and secure on campus.

At DCSD, we are pleased to share these latest security enhancements that will provide real-time information, detection, and alerts to make our schools much safer. Even with these new measures, we still rely on our longstanding, supportive DeKalb County community partners to work with us to provide the best educational experiences.

If you have any questions regarding these security systems, please contact your school administrators or our Department of Public Safety.

Thank you for your trust and continued support.