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Subject: Tragic News & Farewell, for Now
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Importance: High

Late last night the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office informed me that our colleague and friend Holly Martinez was shot and killed in her home last evening, the victim of domestic violence.

The Sheriff's Office has not yet released an official statement due to the status of the investigation. However, we have been told that a sole suspect has been taken into custody.

Holly began with us as a reading specialist at Garfield Elementary in 2008. She served as an assistant principal at several of our elementary schools until I appointed her principal at Forest View Elementary in 2011. She has been a director of elementary literacy for the past two school years. Holly was a loving mother of three children, all of whom attend our schools, and a highly respected instructional leader and colleague.

Becky Ballbach, director of student support, and the district trauma response team are available at multiple sites today to assist school staff and students.

I believe Holly would want us all to be thinking now of her children and her family. Details about how we can support them organizationally and individually are not yet available. Depending upon the wishes of Holly's family, I will share information they wish to convey. I will do so through the district email system. School principals have been provided links to resources that staff may find useful in responding to grief in our schools.

As you can imagine, this morning I am at a loss for words to express the depth of my shock and sadness. The tragedy of Holly's death calls us to be our best selves and care for one another. While it is beyond our capacity to make sense of the senseless, many who depend on us will expect that. We are the people others will turn to in their grief.

I do wish you a summer of peace, reflection, and rejuvenation, and I thank you for making 2017-18 a successful one for families who have entrusted their children to us.

Warmest regards,

Gary



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