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Statement from Lee County Board of Education

November 17, 2022

As has been publicly reported, former SanLee Middle School teacher Andrew Allen has been arrested on charges regarding misconduct with several students. While we cannot legally disclose all of the information available to the school district about this situation, the Board believes it is essential to communicate directly and clearly with the public.

Lee County Schools staff were first made aware of concerns about Mr. Allen's conduct on November 2, and he was immediately suspended with pay pending a thorough investigation, and the Lee County Sheriff's Office was contacted. Since that time, Mr. Allen has not been in any of our schools. On November 4, following that additional investigation, Mr. Allen was suspended without pay pending Board action. He resigned his position on November 6.

The Board wants to emphasize that student safety is our highest priority. All employees are screened before being hired, a process that includes criminal background checks and reference checks. School administrators monitor teachers and respond to any concerns that are raised.

We understand that there will be many questions and that our community will need time and support in order to process and respond to this terrible situation. We are providing additional support to the SanLee Middle School community, including additional counselors and other staff to support students. We also are committed to keeping the public informed about this situation, while respecting required legal limitations, and ask for your patience as information continues to develop.

Recognizing the sensitive nature of this situation, we defer to parents about how and what to communicate to your children regarding what has occurred. Most of all, thank you for supporting the many Lee County Schools employees who are deeply committed to our children's education and their well-being.