

Joint Statement from the Borough of Collingswood, Collingswood School District and Camden County  
Prosecutor's Office

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, a meeting was held after minor concerns regarding the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials<sup>1</sup> had been discussed among the Collingswood Police Chief, Collingswood Board of Education Solicitor and representatives from the Camden County Prosecutor's Office.


Today, representatives from the Borough of Collingswood, Collingswood School District and Camden County Prosecutor's Office met to discuss the MOA and issues that arose from the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

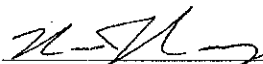
As a result of today's meeting, each agency takes ownership and responsibility for its respective roles in this matter. We all agree that better communication among the parties could have avoided the resulting controversy and that the disagreements should have been handled through face-to-face discussions rather than unilateral press statements. We all are committed to moving forward in a productive and meaningful way to protect and safeguard the health and welfare of students and to alleviate the concerns of the school community.


Under the MOA, the schools will continue to make mandatory referrals to law enforcement in the most serious of crimes (for example: drug offenses, unlawful possession of a firearm, threats of violence and sexual offenses). In all other matters, school officials have complete authority to exercise their discretion using the criteria set forth in the MOA by taking into consideration the nature and seriousness of the offense before deciding to report the matter to law enforcement.

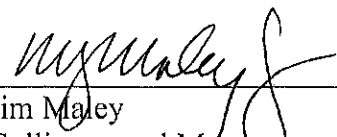
In regard to the "brownie incident" that has been written about in the press, Borough and County law enforcement support the school district's decision to contact the police as the words used were much more incendiary than what has been reported. Because that matter is currently under investigation, more information cannot be released at this time.

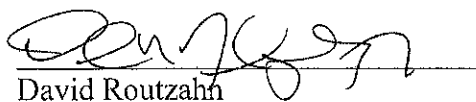
We thank the Camden County Superintendent for attending this meeting today.

  
Mary Eva Colalillo  
Camden County Prosecutor

  
Kevin Carey  
Collingswood Police Chief

  
Scott Oswald  
Collingswood School District Superintendent

  
Jim Maley  
Collingswood Mayor

  
David Routzahn  
Collingswood Board of Education President

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.state.nj.us/education/schools/security/regis/agree.pdf>