

MAYWOOD

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Superintendent

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Thank You Maywood

Last week the district received a call that is the type of call you never want to receive. The call indicated to us that two families, each with a child attending MAS, were involved in a house fire. District representatives met with the families involved that evening and provided any assistance we could which at that time was clothing and a few chargers for electronic devices. We were relieved to see that both students were physically fine and in good emotional condition knowing what had just transpired. What the district and this community witnessed thereafter was simply incredible. This district and the people of Maywood consistently champion extending a helping hand and making sure that fellow Maywoodians are cared for in times of need. There was no greater example of that statement then what we all witnessed in a mere 24 hours.

What gets lost first and foremost is the role of our emergency responders. Again, they are the people who run into a situation that most of us simply think of running away from. Our fire department, police and emergency responders were yet again incredibly prepared for this situation and were our true first responders when we needed them. A neighbor who did not know one of the families impacted by the fire opened his doors and provided this family a home for the evening and for as long as they would need it. Upon meeting him he simply said to me that "This is what Maywoodians do." Lastly, the district sponsored a fundraiser for the families. We wanted to get items into their hands quickly so as to get them as comfortable as possible in their time of immediate need. We simply asked for donations to be dropped off in a two hour span one night and then a three hour span the next morning. I cannot really justifiably describe the response. Overwhelming does not do it justice. Due to the compassion of this community these families received over \$5,000 of support in the form of immediate funds and gift cards for essential day to day items.

As a Maywood resident for over 30 years and the proud Superintendent of this great district, that span of 24 hours truly painted the picture of who we are as a community. I didn't need that reminder because I see the goodness each day, but it sure was satisfying seeing what a small town consisting of big hearts can do when called to action. I hope we never have to reach out to this community again for such an awful circumstance but we all can rest a little easier knowing that we are Maywoodians. Things that we just witnessed and the many acts of compassion and caring for others that we see each and every day in this town are why we love Maywood and to steal the phrase I referenced above, "This is what Maywoodians do."

Thank you Maywood

Michael Jordan
Superintendent of Schools