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Statement Regarding the Memorial Garden at Cherry Hill High School West
September 12, 2019

Members of our community this week raised concerns regarding the Memorial Garden at Cherry Hill High School West. I would like to assure everyone that the garden is in the process of being restored after years of neglect. District wide, our buildings and grounds staff have been making changes to our landscaping to enhance the security and safety of our buildings by removing landscaping overgrowth and aging trees which present a danger to those on the property. Additionally, like the physical structures of our schools, the landscape requires maintenance and care for it to thrive. This, at times, requires pruning and replacing.

The grove in the courtyard between E-wing and F-wing at High School West had fallen into severe disrepair during the past 25 years – the benches are no longer usable and the plantings needed to be removed. The stone marker for the garden, dedicated to members of the Class of 1993, was moved during this process, but not discarded. It will be cleaned and shall have a prominent place in the restored garden.

The school will work with students and alumni in planning, designing and constructing a new seating area that honors the past, while providing a place for current students that is sustainable for the future.

We will continue to provide updates and look forward to unveiling the new Memorial Garden in the spring.