

## **Santa Fe High School Staff Return as the Healing Process Continues**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(May 24, 2018) – Our Santa Fe ISD community has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that has come from across the nation. Together, we are grieving an unimaginable loss – and we remain committed to ensuring that all students, families and staff receive the support and resources they need. Our Santa Fe community has demonstrated incredible strength and compassion during this difficult time.

Wednesday, our SFISD staff members at the elementary and middle school levels returned to their campuses to begin the long healing process, and Santa Fe High School staff gathered at another District facility. Our hearts are heavy with grief and sadness, and we recognize that our staff members needed time to come together to begin processing through their grief before students return next week. We are extremely thankful for the state and local agencies who have responded to assist and provide critical mental health resources for our students, staff and families. As staff returned Wednesday, mental health experts provided opportunities for larger discussions, as well as small and individual counseling sessions, while other support included visits from therapy dogs. A few members of the Houston Texans Players and Cheerleaders stopped by, offering hugs and encouragement. Every action, every note and every prayer is welcomed and very much appreciated. In the next few days, there will be additional opportunities for our staff to come together, support one another and continue to plan for the return of all our students.

When students return to school on Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, multiple law enforcement agencies from across the state will be providing additional security, and we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment so as a community we can heal.

We ask that our community continue to keep our victims and their families in their prayers. We are blessed to be a part of such a giving and strong community.

In the coming days, we will continue to communicate our plans for the return to school next week and will continue to post updates to [www.sfisd.org/updates](http://www.sfisd.org/updates).

**#SANTAFESTRONG**

Patti Hanssard,  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Human Resources & Public Relations