



Jim Farnen

Administrator

**Interviewed by Sofia Weinberg
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Jim Farnen was born in 1969 in Connecticut. He attended Sacred Heart University and started working at Staples High School in July 2000. Mr. Farnen became an Assistant Principal in 2004.

Where were you during the attack?

I was dean of students at Staples High School.

How did you learn of the attack?

Ms. Romano's radio was on and it was reported that a plane had hit a building. Then we turned on the TV and watched the second plane crash.

How did you react immediately?

I was immediately concerned about the safety of the school and how we would secure ourselves.

How did the attack impact your life?

I personally did not have any friends who were killed, but there were so many people around me who were affected.

Would your life be any different today if the attacks hadn't happened?

All of our lives would be different. This country is now so focused on the war on terror.

Do you remember the government's response to the attacks? the international community?

I remember that President Bush's approval ratings were high. People put aside their differences to come together and aid the country.

What did you think about terrorism before the attacks? Did the attacks change your view on terrorism? If so, how?

Before the attacks, terrorism was never a concern. It wasn't something we thought about. There were isolated incidents, but it wasn't a consistent fear.

How did you inform the students?

Word got out- there was an announcement and there was a lockdown. Some students went home.

Did you have a cell phone?

Yes. Cell phones were not as common, but some student had them as well. People used them to communicate with their loved ones.

In the following days, what was school like?

People were in shock. You wouldn't see a plane in the air for the days to come. It was very quiet.