



Marlboro Central School District

Michael M. Brooks
Superintendent of Schools

June 5, 2018

Dear Families,

In today's world, every potential threat is treated as credible until officially determined otherwise.

I understand the concerns families have expressed about not receiving my letter about yesterday's incident until this morning. I apologize for not communicating sooner and fully recognize that had I been more prompt, we could have avoided much of the inaccuracies and rumors that are currently circulating about the incident. Although I had the details that allowed me to have complete confidence that the situation was handled swiftly and appropriately, I understand many parents were not privy to the information necessary to have the same confidence. The trust you place in us to keep your children safe, and to provide timely communications to reassure you they are indeed safe, is not taken for granted. We will do better in the future.

As our police and administration continue to work through the investigation, I wanted to update our community—to the level that is allowable and responsible—on the situation. We understand the concern and fear that incidents such as this generate and will provide the details that we are able to share at this time.

To recap, on Monday, June 4, a parent reported hearing of an inappropriate conversation between two students that had happened in a classroom on Friday, June 1. As soon as Middle School administrators were notified, the situation was immediately conveyed to the School Resource Officer, who is a member of the Town of Marlborough Police Department assigned to the Middle School. An investigation was immediately initiated. Each of our school buildings has its own uniformed and armed School Resource Officer present on a daily basis.

The two students responsible for making the threatening comments were immediately secured and isolated for questioning. They have since been suspended for a short-term out of school suspension, which is the maximum time allowed until a formal Superintendent's Hearing is conducted. They will not be returning to school until the investigation is complete and the formal Superintendent Hearing is conducted. As part of the Superintendent's Hearing process, a longer-term suspension will be considered. This is the required due process afforded to students under New York State law.

Our law enforcement officials are continuing to investigate the situation and are in constant contact with school administrators. Families of all students, both the individuals who are accused of making the threatening statements and those who were present for the conversations, have been contacted and statements were collected. The Town of Marlborough Police has assured us that no credible threat exists. The investigation will continue until our police and school officials are confident that everything has been thoroughly reviewed and addressed. In addition, the Ulster County Family Court attorney is also reviewing the matter.

Today, and for as long as the Town of Marlborough Police deem necessary and beneficial, there will be an increased police presence at the Middle School. It is our hope that this heightened level of law enforcement reassures students that they are safe. I want to reiterate the availability of counselors and strongly encourage any child feeling afraid or unsafe to speak with one of these professionals. It is important for children to be able to rationalize their fears in a safe and constructive manner. Please don't hesitate to contact the counseling office at 845-236-5844 with any questions or concerns.

I want to also provide clarification on two rumors circulating about the incident. While reports of a "list" have been circulating, there is no evidence that any actual list exists. In addition, yesterday at approximately 11:50 AM, a volleyball hit a fire alarm in the gymnasium, triggering an alarm. Immediately, the alarm was confirmed to be caused by the volleyball. The fire alarm was completely unrelated to this incident.

I want to assure our families that actions which create an unsafe environment will not be tolerated and reinforce the importance of "see/hear something, say something." It is essential that students be frequently reminded to immediately share any concerns about something they overhear or witness with an adult they trust. This open communication is a key element for keeping our schools safe.

Should any additional details become available that are appropriate for public release, I will share them promptly. I invite anyone with further concerns to contact me directly at 845-236-5802 or by email at michael.brooks@marlboroschools.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Brooks". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Michael Brooks
Superintendent of Schools