

Hello LDSS Parents

I have been given permission to debrief you of what transpired on Thursday and Friday this past week.

On Thursday evening at 7:51 PM, I received a call from OPP requesting my help identifying people in a video that they believe was made in one of our classrooms earlier that day. I agreed and they said they would come see me in the morning at school.

On Friday I arrived at school at around 7AM and received a call from the OPP at 7:08. The Sergeant said that an officer was coming to the school and she would send me the videos they received from a parent. At 7:11 AM I received the email and watched it for the first time. While watching, the OPP officer arrived and we began to review it. I confirmed the identity of the suspect and identified one other student in the video. When the Vice Principal arrived a few minutes later, we were told by the officer that he was going to consult with the Sergeant. At that time we went to check the student's locker for what the officer described as likely an air-soft gun. We checked the locker and did not find the weapon.

We returned to the office and the OPP asked that we check for him inside the building as they organize officers at each of our entrances. At 7:25 we began to search and monitor hallways inside the school while OPP were at each entrance outside. As staff began to come in to work, I alerted our safe school team to look for the student and delegated entrances from inside the school. At 7:48 AM, the Sgt walked to ward my South entrance and told me they apprehended the student outside at the west entrance. We walked over to that entrance and I saw the student in the back of the cruiser with 10 or more OPP officers present, including plain clothes officers. They conferenced and the sergeant returned to speak to me. She told me that they felt the school was secure with the student in custody. We were asked to assist an officer by organizing the students in that class (potential witnesses) for interviews.

All of the OPP officers left the school except for the one officer who was going to conduct interviews. Seeing them leave the school, I felt the school was safe. We went in and began to organize lists of students for the officer. The parent of each student that was interviewed was called (unless the student refused). This took the bulk of the VP's time from 8:30 to 10:30 AM. The officer also asked for us to check cameras for yesterday and to create a timeline of when he arrived to class, left the class, etc. This took most of the morning to track the student and document times and locations he went. While I was reviewing surveillance, I called the Superintendent and spoke to him at 8:20 AM. I told Superintendents Canty and Duben what had transpired to that point and what we were working on now. They told me they would consult with the Director and they would work on messaging to parents and the community. I continued to work on the timeline, as the OPP had requested.

After all interviews were done and timelines documented, The OPP left the school. I organized a staff meeting in the library at 11:00 AM to update staff. At no point on Friday were any students inside the

school at risk. We took every measure we could and followed our Safe Schools protocol in cooperation with the OPP. I couldn't be prouder of our Safe Schools Team inside the building keeping watch at every entrance. The OPP were organized, moved swiftly and maintained the safety of all staff and students inside. Considering the time of day with all students entering the school from all entrances, I believe this bad situation ended as well as we could have hoped.

I know that people will criticize and say I should have done this or should not have done that; but the positive result was my priority. As a parent myself, I understand the angst and anxiety that parents must have felt, but my focus that morning was not the parents, it was the safety of the staff and student in my building. I thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this entire chain of events.