



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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RE: LHS Lockdown Today, March 20, 2023

Dear LPS Community,

At approximately 11:30 a.m. this morning, Livingston High School (LHS) was placed under lockdown for approximately 25 minutes. We are not able to share every detail of an ongoing police investigation, however, we wanted to share some additional information about this morning's events.

The District received a message this morning that a student at LHS had potentially accessed a weapon. Upon receiving the message, the school enacted its normal security protocols. The Livingston Police Department (LPD) responded immediately. LHS was placed under a lockdown and the student in question was quickly taken into custody by LPD. In actuality, there was never a weapon at LHS and no one was ever in danger in the school.

However, when the lockdown occurred, as we would expect, LPD entered LHS with the intensity and determination of a real situation, including carrying a few weapons that may be needed to stop an actual threat. Police sidearms were never drawn or pointed at any person. We understand that it was disconcerting for members of our school community to see the officers enter the school in this manner. LPD is extremely responsive and serious in its purpose when responding to potential threats. Both the district and the LPD will always react to situations as if there could be a real danger until we know there is none.

While our school staff helped students lock down appropriately, it was reported that, in some of our higher-density areas, certain students did not comply with protocols. Our students have been trained in how to respond to emergencies since kindergarten and know what is expected of them. Unfortunately, some students kept talking and interacting with each other despite the instruction to lock down. Ms. Rosenzweig addressed the students at the end of the school day today about the importance of EVERY individual student following all commands when a lockdown is activated. Everyone has a role to play in a school lockdown, and we will continue to emphasize this with our students. Please remind your children how important it is to treat each lockdown seriously, and to do their part by carefully following procedures and instructions during a potential emergency.

Parents should also be aware that we have certain protocols in place for all of the schools in the district when any one school in the district enacts a lockdown. While each school enacted those protocols today, ONLY Livingston High School was actually in lockdown due to the potential of a dangerous situation in that school. All other schools were simply following district protocols. There was no threat, danger, or involvement in this situation that reached any other school in the district today.

The safety and security of our schools are always our top priority and we are thankful that there was never a dangerous item at LHS, and that no one was hurt. After the lockdown, the school day proceeded normally at all schools. The strong and swift reaction by the LPD was appreciated. We are fortunate to have such a strong partnership between the schools and law enforcement. We recognize the importance of practicing our safety protocols and helping our students and staff to know exactly what to do in an emergency, and we will continue to implement and reinforce the training in all of our schools. School counselors stand ready to support our students going forward. Please recognize that the rumor mill, often fueled by posts on social media, generally serves to increase fear, and undermine efforts to keep our schools as safe as possible.

Thank you.

Chief Marshuetz and Dr. Block

Livingston Public Schools: Empowering all to learn, create, contribute, and grow.