



## SCOTT CITY R-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Brian Lee, Superintendent of Schools

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March 2, 2018

Dear parents and patrons of Scott City R-1 Schools,

Now that last week's events have calmed down I wanted to touch base with everyone to ensure you that we are doing everything that we can to make sure our students and staff are safe here at school. That is our top priority. As we discussed at the Board of Education meeting last Wednesday, here is a synopsis of what happened to cause the situation we experienced. On Friday, February 16, there was a report of a possible rumor of a threat against the school. The administration and local law enforcement officials investigated and found no actual threat. The incident stemmed from a misunderstanding of two students talking about video games. On Tuesday there was a rumor of a threat against the school reported by a third party due to mandatory reporting laws. These situations call for immediate reporting of any possible danger to children. The mandated reporters are not allowed to take any time to investigate into the reliability of the threat or issue. Had the law given them some more time, they would have been able to determine that there had not been a credible threat, which was the ultimate conclusion of the investigation. The school was in lockdown during the investigation phase to make sure that everyone was safe. Law enforcement officials from the local, county, and state levels were on campus and the first ones on the scene were here within two minutes.

I heard several rumors about gunmen and guns and also a bomb threat being called into a local business in connection with our incident. None of these things happened – there was no credible threat, let alone a weapon of any kind, found. The students and staff were not in any danger.

Since the events of last week, the administration team has met several times together and with the staff to look at ways we can make sure our school is as safe as possible. As discussed at the Board meeting, we are looking at options, ranging from the feasibility of a school resource officer to the use of metal detectors or any steps that might increase safety. We have an upcoming active shooter drill with students and staff that had been scheduled before these events and the shooting in Florida. These scenarios will involve students in grades 5-12. The elementary teachers will review our safety procedures with their students. For events like this in the future, the Knights of Columbus parking lot on Highway 61 will be used as a staging area for parents and both the school and local law enforcement will try to have an official on site for information and to help the process proceed smoothly. We want to keep the communication open to our community as well as keep the roadways and access to the school open to the authorities.

I appreciated everyone's interest and comments at the meeting last week. It was good to hear about what was on the mind of the community. I understand and share everyone's concerns about school safety. As an administrator and as a parent of two Scott City Rams, I want our students to be safe here. We will not forget the recent incidents and will always make safety our top priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Lee, Scott City R-1 Superintendent