

March 12, 2023

Good Morning Monroe Families,

I am reaching out this morning to address Friday's event at Monroe School. As you are all aware, we did have a student arrive at school with a weapon in a backpack. Thankfully I was made aware of this shortly after the school day began and within minutes both the student and weapon were secured away from all other students, posing no threat to anyone from that point on. As both an educator and a parent, I understand that this was an incredibly frightening event and I know that families are likely experiencing many different emotions about this. As a community, we will need to support one another in addressing these feelings and moving forward to help everyone feel safe.

While I cannot share specific details, I can tell you that both our district SRO and multiple members of the Waldo County Police Department were on scene very quickly and worked through the appropriate protocols. While it did take some time to conduct their onsite investigations, etc, all students and staff were safe throughout the day. Students were aware that we had multiple police officers "visiting" the school but thanks to the efforts of staff, the majority of students were unaware and therefore mostly unaffected by the specific situation and able to continue on with their normal routines. Our older students were a little more directly involved and aware of what was happening and we monitored their needs closely, connecting with families as needed and respecting students' wishes regarding whether they wanted to finish their school day or go home early.

Again, without sharing specific details, I can assure families that any student who brings a weapon on school grounds will not be permitted on the school bus or any RSU 3 school property pending law enforcement investigations and protocols as well as RSU 3 protocols and policies.

The staff met on Friday afternoon following student dismissal to debrief and discuss next steps. Our plan for tomorrow will be to take our cues from students, keeping routines as normal as possible, while also monitoring and addressing student questions, concerns, fears, etc. We will have additional staff present in the building to help support as needed.

Our RSU 3 crisis team met on Friday and will meet again on Monday afternoon to continue to develop an appropriate plan based on student needs throughout the district. We will be revisiting and reinforcing our See Something Say Something campaign. Fortunately in this case, we did have several students share important information and we will continue working with all students to help them understand how crucial it is to tell someone immediately if they are aware of any unsafe situations.

As you continue to talk with your child(ren) at home, they may experience a wide array of emotions and will likely continue to have questions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at

school to share this information or to ask for support. In the coming weeks, we will share strategies and resources that may assist you with addressing your child's reactions to this event.

I would like to express my gratitude to our district SRO Jordan Tozier and the additional police officers who were present. They worked quickly to ensure the safety of all students and staff and helped to ensure that the situation was mostly contained to the main office so as not to interrupt our students' learning and normal routines.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Monroe Staff. While they were also aware that something out of the ordinary was happening, they remained calm and waited patiently for updates from me and in the meantime kept their focus on your children ensuring that the day went along smoothly and normal for our students.

Finally, I would like to thank the many parents who reached out, understandably, with questions and concerns but also to offer support and praise to the staff for how this situation was handled.

While we always hope that this type of situation will never happen in our small schools or in our district at all, sadly this was an important reminder that it can happen anywhere and when it does, it is critical that we come together as a community to review and strengthen our practices and ensure the physical and emotional safety of our students, staff, and community.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time with questions, concerns or feedback on how we can support your child/family.

Lisa Roux, Principal

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