



TUXEDO UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 2, 2022

Dear Tuxedo School Family,

First, let me assure you that Tuxedo Union Free School District proactively and continually takes every possible step to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. It is our primary concern.

We immediately respond to any threat and engage our partners in the law enforcement community to provide safety, security and investigations in such situations; they are the experts in these matters.

Today we received a number of threatening emails from a specific party. Once we became aware of threats, we executed our building emergency response plans. The schools went right into lockdown, 9-1-1 was called and our on-site school safety officer (SSO) from the Sheriff's Office was notified. These actions were taken concurrently. Multiple police agencies responded and were on the scene within minutes. I commend the Tuxedo Police, Orange County Sheriff's Office and New York State Police for their rapid response. The police swept the perimeter of the buildings while others secured the inside of the buildings. The cyber-crimes bureaus were engaged right away, and K-9 units were also dispatched. After the buildings were secured, I drafted and sent the first communication to the community to keep you informed and assure you that our children are safe.

Our law enforcement officials concluded this event to be a non-credible threat. That is, while a threat was made the perpetrator does not have the means to carry out their threat. After this determination was made, we had an on-time dismissal with a full police presence.

This matter is being fully investigated. As I write this letter to you from my office tonight there are more than three investigators and the cyber-crimes bureau on the case following up on every lead. Your school administrative team have been in contact with them regularly throughout the night. While the police defined this as a non-credible threat, they are working double time to catch the perpetrator so as to put everyone's mind at ease and help us get back to normal as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, we have been advised that the best course of action for us all to take is to resume in-person instruction. We will have enhanced police protection at each of the buildings tomorrow. We have heard from some of you that there are a number of parents who want to keep their children home tomorrow. We fully appreciate your apprehension. None of us would ever encourage a parent to send a child to school if we thought there was even a remote possibility of danger. However, we have every confidence in our law enforcement professionals and are certain that it is safe to hold in-person instruction tomorrow.

Recently there was a challenge on the social media platform Tik-Tok for students all across America to call in threats against schools. This threat originated overseas and was also deemed a non-credible threat. Unfortunately, in today's

society this is becoming all too common. The point of these pranks is to disrupt our way of life. Anyone deemed responsible for such situations is both subject to disciplinary action and consequences outlined in our school district Code of Conduct, as well as potential criminal charges.

We will continue to work in partnership with law enforcement officials to keep our students, faculty, and staff safe. We will also continue to keep you informed.

We appreciate and thank you for your continued support.



Jeffrey T. White
Superintendent of Schools