



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Timothy L. Doak, Superintendent

75 Glenn Street

Caribou ME 04736

207-496-6311 (Phone)

207-498-3261 (Fax)

www.rsu39.org

June 7, 2022

RE: Joint Statement: School Safety

Dear Staff, Parents, and Community Members;

A meeting was held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, with Timothy L. Doak, Superintendent of Schools, Michael Gahagan, Caribou Chief of Police, and Penny Thompson, Caribou City Manager. This joint statement is about moving forward with a cooperative effort for overall school safety, training/preparation for school incidents, educational programming, and relationship building between the RSU 39 School Department, the City of Caribou, and the Caribou Police Department.

Caribou PD, like most police departments in the nation currently, is struggling with recruitment in the law enforcement field. At this time, Caribou PD does not have the capacity to provide a full-time, trained school resource officer for, at least, the next school year. In a review of system operations and proven best practices for the educational environment experienced by staff, the RSU 39 Board elected to hire a full-time school social worker for Caribou Community School, and a full-time Assistant Principal at Caribou High School.

From our meeting, it has been determined that the continued cooperation between the RSU 39 School Department and the Caribou Police Department will provide the following services:

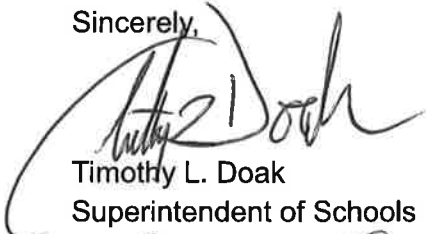
1. Caribou Police Officers will continue to make daily visits to all schools during their assigned patrol duties in the community.
2. All school safety plans will be reviewed, amended, and adopted by both the RSU 39 Administration, Caribou Police Department, Caribou Fire & Ambulance Department, and Caribou Emergency Management Agency.
3. Return of the program "Lunch with a Caribou Police Officer". The officer will visit the schools for lunchtime meals with students and staff. The program will provide relationship building, future career aspirations, and nurture a safe and trustworthy environment for students and staff.

4. Caribou Police Officers will work in conjunction with the school administrators on all school safety training including soft lockdowns, hard lockdowns, ALICE training (Run, Hide, and Fight), and all evacuation drills.
5. Daily security checks will be conducted on school buildings and school grounds for anything out of the ordinary. Promoting the concept of if you see something, say something to students, staff, families, and community members.
6. RSU 39 Administration, City Administration, and the Caribou EMA will work together to identify and apply for any grant funding that is made available to schools to improve safety in buildings and operations.

******For a point of clarification, RSU 39 projected the school resource officer budget to be **\$80,000** for the 2022 -2023 school year. For the last three (3) years, the City of Caribou would only charge RSU 39 for the amount of time that the school resource officer was on the school grounds and on active duty. The school year is 175 student days and 180 staff days. If the resource officer was needed outside the set amount of days, RSU 39 would inform the City of Caribou of such a request.

The Caribou Police Department and Eastern Aroostook RSU 39 are looking forward to the continued cooperation and a joint effort in providing safe schools for our students, staff, and families. Throughout the summer months and into the next school year, work will begin on school safety plans, school site visits for all police officers, and planned safety training for RSU 39 students and staff. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for our schools and in return a safer community overall.

Sincerely,



Timothy L. Doak
Superintendent of Schools



Michael Gahagan
Police Chief