



APS held an informational meeting on September 30th, from 8:30-11:10 a.m. The opportunity provided a platform for parents, families, and community members to discuss the recent events impacting Alma High School.

Approximately 100 parents attended. The expressed concerns included;

- Lack of detail in the September 23rd APS communication.
- The use of passive communication on our school websites versus an announcement pushed out to all parents in the same manner that COVID updates were provided over the last two (2) years.
- Parents were unaware of the safety protocols put in place to ensure a safe environment.
- Parents wanted assurance that the involved students would not be returning to school.
- Parents wanted confirmation on the facts versus rumors.
- Parents wanted confirmation of current and additional communication that would occur with students to help them regain confidence in their school's safety and to reduce anxiety surrounding the recent situation.
- Parents want to know what we will do to change the school environment (fear, bullying, parent support, screenings, mental health information, etc.).

In response to the feedback and concerns outlined, APS would like to share the following information.

All building administrators made three points during student conversations today and will continue to reiterate them Monday using age-appropriate language.

- APS buildings are safe.
- APS has safety protocols in place and we will continue to educate students and staff on these protocols.
- Students should go to adults with concerns or utilize tools designed to collect the information such as OK2SAY.

For your awareness the High School has had the following safety precautions in place;

- Vape detectors, which also detect "aggressions" such as loud noises caused by fights or gunfire
- Two (2) school counselors
- Two (2) district-wide social workers
- One (1) school-based counselor (shared with Ithaca)
- [OK2Say](#)
- [AHS Comment Form](#)
- Direct two-way communication with APD
- Community liaison officer rotating through buildings
- Mandatory Safety drills (fire/tornado/ALICE)
- ALICE training for staff and students
- Staff professional development for safety and threat assessment
- Increased police presence on campus when requested (and at this time)
- MOSAIC Threat Assessment Tool
- Criminal Justice class taught by an APD Police Officer on campus
- Use of handheld metal detectors when necessary
- Locker and bag searches if there is a safety concern.
- Search school email, google docs, Gmail chats, and internet search history if there is a safety concern.

Additional APS action items;

- Continuation of annual ALICE recertification of all staff

- District team attendance at the Michigan State Police Office of School Safety (MSP/OSS) Michigan K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (Mi-BTAM) training
- A physical site assessment will be completed by a qualified third-party to evaluate safety and security measures currently in place at APS

APS administration will continue to develop and share action items that further address and highlight school safety.

The safety of APS students and staff is a top priority. At the meeting school administration advised parents and took accountability for the lack of details provided through the recent event. Reflection back has allowed APS to move forward with improved communication. The safety protocols that were in place, initiated by an OK2SAY tip, activated the strong partnership with Alma Police Department and Gratiot County Sheriff's Department to prevent a potential threat of harm against students and staff.

APS appreciates the comments and concerns brought forward by those who attended this recent meeting as well as the email and phone communications.

We will use this feedback to develop a communication strategy that better suits the desires of our community.