

Good afternoon Highland CUSD No. 5 Parents and Staff,

I want to take a moment and let you know that Highland Schools did not receive any calls or threats today as did many districts around the state. Coincidentally, we did have a significant police presence around 6 a.m. at Highland Middle School due to a malfunctioning speaker making concerning sounds. Once police entered the building, it was quickly identified and no additional issues remained. Due to some community members noticing the presence and combining that with the happenings in other school districts across the state of Illinois, it was concluded that Highland Schools may have had some swatting calls as well. This was not the case.

I want to assure you that should an emergency situation occur in any of our schools, you can expect clear communication in a timely manner. Our administration meets regularly with local emergency officials to ensure our emergency planning is up to date. There is great cooperation and collaboration with law enforcement and emergency services.

On other business, I would like to provide an update on our construction projects. We received bids on the addition at Highland Middle School. The bids are currently being analyzed by Korte Construction, our construction management partner. We hope to have a summary of the bid tabulation in the coming weeks. It appears the bids are in line with our anticipated budget at this time. Bids for the construction of the new Highland Primary building are due May 1 and will give us a complete picture of the scope of the project. I will share more as we get specifics and move towards ground breaking this summer.

Finally, I would like to appeal to the community for any interest in substitutes for all positions. We have opportunities for substitute teachers, program assistants, and custodians. It has been difficult to manage classrooms on a daily basis. The education requirements for substitute teachers have been reduced by the state of Illinois in an effort to assist districts in covering absences in schools. Please contact or refer interested parties to Dena Henricks at 654-2106 ext. 1002 for more information on substitute opportunities.

Thank you and have a great afternoon.

Michael S. Sutton, Superintendent  
Highland CUSD No. 5