



SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

December 12, 2024

Good afternoon,

Two updates.

First, on the threat that was posted on a bathroom stall at the high school. I emailed all parents and staff on Tuesday. We are not hiding any information or trying to keep this a secret.

Hours have been spent by personnel who have multiple years of experience working in schools and in law enforcement reviewing the evidence we have.

We know pictures of the threat have circulated on Facebook, Snapchat, and other online sites. The threat identifies a specific date and time. The statement is alarming. It creates anxious moments for everyone. But we do not believe it is credible.

We have done significant work to try and identify who wrote this threat. We have evaluated student behavior. We have examined hours of video. We have done handwriting analysis. We have interviewed dozens of students. We have not identified who wrote the threat.

There is no chatter on the subject that we have picked up.

The evidence we have is that the statement was made to intimidate and frighten people. We do not believe that it is a credible threat.

I will be at the high school on Friday. I will be in classrooms. I will be in hallways. I will be there to reassure our students that I believe the high school is safe. There will be law enforcement and security personnel. I have confidence that the high school will be safe on Friday.

The other update is on the snow day.

I know it is winter in Michigan and that we cannot close every time it snows.

Today the combination of snow on top of ice along with blowing snow overnight created a safety hazard this morning.

We drive the roads on mornings like this. They were not good this morning.

Our buses in a typical day drive 3800 miles in our 100 square mile district. This morning was not safe for our buses to be on the road. When our doors open for students in the morning, we need our staff and our students to be there. I did not believe that we could ensure that staff and students could get to school safely and on time this morning.

We will have school when there is snow on the ground. I promise.

Steve

Dr. Steve Matthews
Superintendent
Rockford Public Schools