



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 17

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December 20, 2006

Dear Parents and Concerned Citizens:

Over the past two weeks, the Haddam-Killingworth High School and Middle School have been evacuated as a precaution and a part of a comprehensive district response plan to threatening messages found written on privacy screens in bathrooms in both locations. The messages were written bomb threats which included specific dates and times.

The district's response to these threats has been completed in accordance with the steps delineated in the comprehensive emergency plans developed and maintained by both the school district and each school. Our efforts were also coordinated with both the State Police and local officials from both communities. An appeal was also made to the students at the high school yesterday afternoon by Principal Charles Macunas, via H-K television, to enlist the efforts of all students to return to what was referred to as somewhat predictable days, with a focus being placed on having students receive the education which they have a right to receive in a safe environment.

I am troubled by the incidents of the past two weeks because it is the first time in my brief history with the district that we have had to engage these types of responses to incidents which have now been classified as unsubstantiated threats. As I am sure you are aware, these threats not only cause a serious disruption to the educational environments we have expended great energy to make student-centered, safe and free from disruption, but they also create a feeling of unrest and uncertainty within our parents' community and our communities at large.

I give you my assurance that we will continue to maintain safe environments in which all of our children may learn. We will remain vigilant, with the assistance of the Connecticut State Police, to identify those who have sought to compromise the safety and security of our learning environments, and we will prosecute to the fullest extent allowable by the applicable laws those who are responsible for the incidents over the past two weeks. Their actions have not only affected the educational opportunities for students, but have also negatively impacted the many groups that use the region's school facilities for their activities.

In closing, I wish to thank you for your support and patience as we responded to the incidents of the past two weeks. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Principal or me at any time.

Please accept my best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season. I remain

Very truly yours,


Gary S. Mala
Superintendent of Schools

GSM/al

Cc: Tony Bondi, First Selectman, Town of Haddam
Martin Klein, First Selectman, Town of Killingworth
Robert Baranoff, Chairperson, Regional School District No. 17 Board of Education
Board of Education Members
Regional School District No. 17 Faculty and Staff
File (memo book, HKHS, HKMS)

H:g/a:December 20 bomb threats

"SUCCESS IS OUR ONLY OPTION"