



BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Stephen P. Puskar
Superintendent

September 21, 2023

This afternoon, we received a phone call from officials at another school district in the region informing us that federal law enforcement intercepted a social media post containing a threat of violence. The social media post was made by a student within that school district. Since the post was intercepted, it did not become public. We were informed that the Administration of that school district, along with their School Resource Officer, had the student in custody. While Burgettstown Area School District was not named within the post, and no student within Burgettstown's schools was identified as a potential target either, their investigation led them to conclude that the student was attempting to issue a general school shooting threat aimed at our school district. We have no reason to believe the student was on our campus at any time, nor do we have reason to believe the student will come to our campus. Their investigation is ongoing, and we are certain we will receive updates as necessary.

Procedurally, since we knew the student was in their custody, we were free to continue operating in normal status without having to initiate any emergency school safety response procedures. We did, however, conduct our own investigation, identified who we believe to be the other school district's student, and also identified a potential target student within our school district. We met with our student and communicated with his family.

Out of an abundance of caution, we have requested additional police presence on campus for the remainder of the week, at a minimum. We have no reason to believe it will happen, but should the other school district's student arrive on campus, we will promptly respond in such a manner as to keep our students and staff out of harm's way.

This has been a very trying week for schools across the Commonwealth, and today's school safety related situation, while not the same as the one earlier this week, further illustrates the reach of technology in our society. It should serve as a reminder to families to be vigilant in monitoring the electronics-related activities of their children. Should anything questionable ever be discovered with regard to the activities and school safety, please reach out to our Administration as soon as possible so we may respond.