



BURGETTSTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 Bavington Road, Burgettstown, PA 15021-2730

Admin: (724) 947-8136 – MS/HS: (724) 947-8100 – Elem: (724) 947-8150

Admin Fax: (724) 947-8143 – HS Fax: (724) 947-3325

Mr. Stephen P. Puskar
Superintendent

September 18, 2023

This morning we received a bomb threat targeting our schools. Our middle/high school had just started classes and our busses were about to begin their elementary runs. As you know, we cancelled classes at the Elementary Center and evacuated all middle/high school students and staff. There were a limited number of elementary students and staff members present at the Elementary Center, and they were evacuated too. In the interest of safety, all of those individuals were transported off site. As the morning wore on and we were conducting our safety check, the decision was made to cancel classes at the middle/high school and send those students home.

Law enforcement, including officers from Smith Township, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Washington County Sheriff's Department, as well as emergency responders from Smith Township reported to campus and Hanover Police and first responders responded to our off site location. An explosive detecting dog from the Washington County Sheriff's Department was brought on site, and a sweep of both school buildings and the transportation facility was conducted. Fortunately no suspicious devices were found, and all facilities were cleared to resume normal operations.

Late this morning, we also received a message from Washington County Department of Public Safety indicating that several Washington County schools reported receiving a bomb threat today. Though multiple threats such as the one today are likely not credible, the Burgettstown Area School District is committed to the safety and well-being of all students and staff. When such threats are made, we operate with an abundance of caution and follow the lead of law enforcement and the procedures as outlined in our various safety plans.

We understand that when situations like the one today occur, rumors start and everyone wants information immediately. We communicate information as it is available, and as necessary. Our primary goal though, is to keep our students and staff safe, so there may be delays in providing updates to families after the initial notifications are issued. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.