

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 8, 2018

Dear Sussex Middle School Parents and Guardians,

As a parent of three children, there is nothing more important to me than the safety and security of our students and staff. I also understand the desire to know what is happening in our school district and to feel that your children are safe and well cared for at school. With that in mind, I am writing to inform you of a security concern regarding Sussex Middle School and how it was handled.

This specific allegation pertained to a few students allegedly making threatening statements to each other over the summer while playing an exceedingly popular video game. The statements may have escalated into a discussion of "blowing up school" so the gaming could continue beyond summer break. Regardless of whether or not we perceive comments of this nature to be credible, it is my position that in this day and age we need to take every such comment very seriously.

As such, upon receiving this information late in the day Friday, our Sussex Middle School Administration, security guards, and staff took immediate action to ensure everyone's safety and follow all necessary procedures. The New Jersey State Police were contacted and initiated an immediate investigation into the matter. I am pleased to report that, at this time, the New Jersey State Police have indicated there was not a credible threat. I also wanted to take this opportunity to affirm for you our continued commitment to school security and communication. The school district will always act to protect our students and staff while providing an environment that is conducive to learning and development. We also want to take this opportunity to remind the entire school community that while at no time was there any immediate threat to the safety of students or staff, we continue to encourage students that "If you see something, say something."

Sincerely,

Michael Gall
Superintendent
Sussex-Wantage Regional School District