



(715)378-2263 · www.solonk12.net

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOLON SPRINGS

8993 E Baldwin Avenue · Solon Springs, WI 54873

February 20, 2024

Greetings families and community members:

I would like to address the events of February 5-9, 2024.

First, on February 5th a student reported a potential threat. Both the Principal and Dean of Students immediately investigated the alleged threat. It was determined that in fact, there was no threat. The report of the alleged threat was based on the misinterpretation of a portion of a conversation that was overheard. Even though the report to the office was inaccurate, we are grateful the student erred on the side of caution. We want our staff and students to say something if they see or hear anything suspicious or threatening, which allows us to thoroughly investigate all situations of potential concern.

Second, while there was no threat on February 5th, we did discover that our protocols and communication procedures did not work like intended. This resulted in three days of misinformation to circulate without full clarifications from the district. Please accept my sincere apology. Your students' safety and achievement are of utmost importance, while our communication did not articulate this at no point in time was student safety compromised. We want to work to restore your confidence in our procedures, practices, and restore your peace of mind.

In the future, we will notify families any time a threat has been investigated, even if the report is unsubstantiated. We will communicate with you the same day any reports are investigated and we will communicate as much information as possible, while protecting the privacy we are required to maintain in such circumstances.

Our last attempt at alerting the families of the District was not effective. We've discovered a few errors in the system and we believe they have all been addressed. On Friday, February 23, 2024, the District will send out a test Skylert message to all families in order to determine the effectiveness of our message system. Families who do not receive a message by **2:00 pm** should contact the District and inform us that a message was not received so we can fix the issue. In the future the Skylert system will be the system used to notify families of school closures as well as the investigation of any threats to the District.

The District will be practicing threat response drills during the week of February 26-March 1, 2024 so staff and students know how to respond to emergency and threat situations. We will be reading the book I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared to students in grades 4K-2 to begin



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conversations about how to respond to scary or threatening situations. If you or your student has questions, please reach out to the District Office.

Lastly, all families who refrained from sending their students to school due to safety concerns are expected to have their students return to participate. The District will allow excused absences from February 8 to February 23, 2024 but will not permit further excused absence for safety concerns related to this incident after this date. Teachers will not be providing work for days missed after this date unless there is a documented illness.

We want transparency and open communication. We have an open door policy. Please call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Peter M. Hopke
Superintendent

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