

METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT OF STEUBEN COUNTY

400 SOUTH MARTHA STREET ♦ ANGOLA, INDIANA 46703 ♦ 260.665.2854 ♦ FAX: 260.665.9155 ♦ www.mssteuben.k12.in.us

February 22, 2018

Dear MSD of Steuben County Families,

This letter is to inform you about an increased police presence in our schools yesterday. The safety and security of our students, both physical and mental, is our top priority at the MSD of Steuben County and although we can't share specific information, we want to be transparent and share what we can with you.

After school on Tuesday, February 20, the administration at Angola Middle School was made aware of a safety concern that was reported by one of our students. That evening this concern was thoroughly investigated and plans were put in place to ensure student safety. We are aware that since this event there are many rumors and postings on social media. To avoid misinformation, we want to clarify as many things as possible without violating student confidentiality. Please be assured that there were no weapons found at AMS and no building was on "lockdown" on Wednesday. Our students were never in any danger.

Due to recent events on the news and out of an abundance of caution, police started increased patrols in our buildings. This will be our new "norm," and we welcome the support of local police agencies. Not only will they be an extra set of eyes to identify potential safety issues, they are meant to be reassuring to students so that students feel safe and know that help is never far away. We seek the help of parents in communicating this message to students.

We also want to assure you that MSD has safety procedures in place and routinely practices drills and updates safety plans. In the event of a real emergency, we would communicate with parents through media such as WLKI, on our district website, and through Remind. We will also communicate routine lockdown drills so that you have accurate information about what is happening to put your mind at ease.

If you have questions, we encourage you to call your student's building principal or our Safety Director, Nancy Irwin. National tragedies like school shootings heighten our awareness of school safety, and we welcome calls to clarify concerns, ask questions, and offer to help. We have had all of these today and are truly grateful to be in a community that cares so deeply and passionately about all of its children. They are precious and we need to work together to keep them safe.

Thank you,

Nancy Irwin
MSD Safety Director
AHS Assistant Principal
260-665-2186 (Ext. 2998)

Brent A. Wilson
Superintendent
260-665-2854