



Warren Consolidated Schools

Creating Dynamic Futures through Student Achievement, High Expectations, and Strong Relationships

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February 28, 2018

Dear WCS Community,

If you watch a minute of television or go on social media, it is easy to see how a tragedy like what happened in south Florida creates numerous emotional and controversial reactions, including the debate over gun control, whether teachers should be armed, planned protest demonstrations with student walkouts, and unfortunately, students who say regrettable things that get them into trouble. As you may expect, we are dealing with these issues to some degree in our schools and community.

As such, I bring to your attention a very important part of this discussion, which is the obligation of the school to treat a student who makes a threat, whether real or not, in the same way as the student who actually poses a threat.

You probably have seen in the media recently the number of school communities dealing with a student who makes a really bad decision and posts something scary. This results in the difficult, but necessary, response from law enforcement and the courts to prosecute the student, in many cases with a heavy penalty, such as a 20-year felony for making a terrorist threat. This, in turn, supports a very clear, zero tolerance approach to teach children that their actions have consequences.

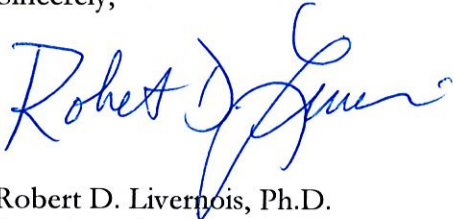
Unfortunately, since yesterday, we have had two students, one at Carter Middle School and one at Beer Middle School who have made concerning statements. Both students were referred to the police, and may very well face some heavy consequences both at school and in the courts.

Not surprisingly, both students were brought to the school's attention by other students through staff members, which continues to reinforce the importance of making it safe for students to share difficult information with adults. In both cases, student and staff safety was our number one priority and the situation was addressed without any incident, which included notifying the parents of students who received the threat.

We will continue to work hard to make students feel connected at school because that remains the best deterrent against violence. If you have any questions, concerns, or something just does not seem right, please contact WCS Director of Security and Crisis Management Brent Bott at 586-698-4110.

Thank you again for all of your support. Together, we will maintain strong, safe schools and help this generation move forward and be successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert D. Livernois". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "R" and "L".

Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.
Superintendent