

**Subject:** Re: WMS School Safety Situation: plan for next week and beyond

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 1/26/2024, 6:33 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**CC:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], Deanne Galdston

<deanne.galdston@watertown.k12.ma.us>, Kendra Foley <kendra.foley@watertown.k12.ma.us>, lily.raymanread@watertown.k12.ma.us, Amy Donohue <amy.donohue@watertown.k12.ma.us>, lisa.capoccia@watertown.k12.ma.us, rachel.kay@watertown.k12.ma.us, jessica.middlebrook@watertown.k12.ma.us, msideris@watertown-ma.gov

Dear [REDACTED],


Thank you for reaching out with your questions and concerns. I appreciate your care in asking these questions as we work together to keep our school community safe, as well as your patience in awaiting my response. My thoughts in purple below.

- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with students who are on the Hit List so they feel safe when the student who wrote the list returns to school--especially for the kids on the list who are in advisory and classes with the student who wrote the list? **Our administration and mental health staff spent time with students and staff processing feelings and answering questions today. We will be offering additional support to teachers to sign up by advisory next week, and will especially be focusing our attention on the classes with students directly impacted by this list.**
- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with all students in 7th grade and the entire school so they feel safe when the student who wrote the list returns to school? **See above.**
- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with students in the coming weeks beyond next week? **See above. We are additionally reminding students that they can ask their teacher to see a counselor at any time, and that talking about what is bothering us is helpful instead of bottling it up; on the flip side, gossiping about this beyond processing our feelings is not helpful for our community healing process, so it's important to know the difference.**
- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with the student who wrote the Hit List and their family to prevent future lists and similar actions and prevent the escalation of the situation? **We have already been working very closely with the family and student to understand the root causes so they can be addressed, and to prevent an escalation of this in the future. We will continue to make a plan with the family next week, and will not have the student re-enter the school community until we have a safe plan established.**
- How will the school/district and family of the student be addressing issues and challenges being experienced by the student who wrote the list so they get the services and supports they need? **see above.**

I hope this helps address your concerns. Dr. Galdston and I will plan to host a WMS community forum

next week where we can help process this event with caregivers and staff. I will share more information about the date and location later this weekend.

With respect and gratitude,

  
Principal  
Watertown Middle School  
Watertown Public Schools  
pronouns: she/her/hers



When writing or responding, please remember that any email sent or received by an employee of the Watertown Public Schools is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66. This email message (including any attachments) is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential information covered under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and/or other student records laws. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to read, retain, print, copy, disseminate or otherwise use this email (or any attachments) or any part thereof. If you have received this email (and any attachments) in error, please contact the sender and delete all copies from your system.

On Fri, Jan 26, 2024 at 11:51 AM  > wrote:

Dear WMS and WPS Leadership Team,

Thank you to the teachers/staff/leaders who identified this situation and brought it to the necessary level of attention.

As a parent of a student who is on the Hit List, I have questions about the support and prevention plan the school/district will be implementing next week and in the coming weeks:

- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with students who are on the Hit List so they feel safe when the student who wrote the list returns to school--especially for the kids on the list who are in advisory and classes with the student who wrote the list?
- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with all students in 7th grade and the entire school so they feel safe when the student who wrote the list returns to school?
- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with students in the coming weeks beyond next week?
- How will the school/district be proactively addressing and discussing the situation with the student who wrote the Hit List and their family to prevent future lists and similar actions and prevent the escalation of the situation?
- How will the school/district and family of the student be addressing issues and challenges being experienced by the student who wrote the list so they get the services and supports they need?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

When writing or responding, please remember that any email sent or received by an employee of the Watertown Public Schools is subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c.66. This email message (including any attachments) is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential information covered under the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA) and/or other student records laws. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering it to the intended recipient, you are not authorized to read, retain, print, copy, disseminate or otherwise use this email (or any attachments) or any part thereof. If you have received this email (and any attachments) in error, please contact the sender and delete all copies from your system.