

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

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** 1/31/2024, 1:05 PM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**CC:** [REDACTED]

[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, "dunsworth@police.watertown-ma.gov" <dunsworth@police.watertown-ma.gov>

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your feedback and your presence last night.

I am working hard with our staff today to respond to the students in front of us in the building, and to communicate clearly with impacted families to offer support.

I am also working on a communication to be shared with the whole school community by the end of today. Thank you for your advocacy, and also your patience, as we respond to the whole school as well as individual needs.

With respect,

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



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On Wed, Jan 31, 2024 at 11:58 AM [REDACTED] wrote:  
Superintendent Galdston, Principal [REDACTED], Vice Principal [REDACTED], Vice Principal [REDACTED],

I am writing in response to the discussion at last night's meeting about the Hit List. I am very

frustrated with the lack of information and lack of answers to my questions and questions from other families about your steps to ensure the safety of the school environment and your plan for re-integrating the student who wrote the Hit List within the school community. I was not able to tell my [REDACTED] with certainty whether the student who wrote the Hit List would be in school with [REDACTED] today, and if so in what capacity [REDACTED] would [REDACTED] see the student in advisory, would [REDACTED] see [REDACTED] in the halls, would [REDACTED] be at lunch?

In approximately 60 seconds or so, at the end of the meeting last night, Officer Unsworth empathized and connected with the parents in the room and provided some specific information about what the police department did in their investigation of the situation that made me feel more informed, but did not violate the privacy of the student who wrote the Hit List. I had been hoping to hear the same from the school/district administration, but did not.

As a parent of a student who was named on the Hit List, I need more information from you about your steps to ensure the safety of the school environment and your plan for re-integrating the student who wrote the Hit List within the school community. Saying that you followed your protocols for safety and are developing a re-integration and restoration plan without sharing anything about those protocols and plans does not give me enough information. I heard from you that you were advised by the school district's lawyer and are bound by privacy laws or regulations not to share specific information about the student who wrote the Hit List, but what about the right of my child to safety at school and your obligation to provide it? My child was named on the Hit List, which is a threat made against [REDACTED] yet you have not communicated to me specific steps you are taking and planning to take to keep [REDACTED] safe at school. You have also neglected to get a full picture of the circumstances surrounding the situation because, by your own admission last night, you have not actively sought out information from all the families on the Hit List about their students' interactions with the student who wrote the Hit List.

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Jan 26, 2024 at 6:33 PM [REDACTED]

wrote:

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



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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,

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