

Subject: Serious Situation at WMS

From: Deanne Galdston <deanne.galdston@watertown.k12.ma.us>

Date: 1/25/2024, 2:34 PM

To: Mark Sideris <msideris@watertown-ma.gov>, Jessica Middlebrook <jessica.middlebrook@watertown.k12.ma.us>, Amy Donohue <amy.donohue@watertown.k12.ma.us>, Kendra Foley <kendra.foley@watertown.k12.ma.us>, Rachel Kay <rachel.kay@watertown.k12.ma.us>, Lisa Capoccia <lisa.capoccia@watertown.k12.ma.us>, Lily RaymanRead <lily.raymanread@watertown.k12.ma.us>

Good afternoon,

It has come to the attention of the middle school administration that a student created a "hit list" with 40+ names. The existence of the list was brought to the school administration by a teacher who overheard students talking about who was on the list. The teacher asked one of the students about it who indicated that it wasn't "serious" just a list of people the writer of the list was upset with or frustrated by.

Their parents were contacted, and they provided the school with the list that was created on their Chromebook, labeled "hit list". At this time, following all of our protocols, including screening the student, speaking with the SRO, checking for access to weapons, and speaking with the family of the student, we have no reason to believe that there was a threat to students or that it was credible. The WMS administration is going to begin calling the families of the students on the list right after dismissal, as there is a lot of talking around the school about the existence of the list. [REDACTED] will send out a letter to middle school families about this as well, stressing that there is no credible threat.

When speaking to the student, they identified that they wrote the list out of frustration, not to do harm in any way. That being said, once the list was written as a hit list, we needed to take action to ensure the safety for both this student and the school community.

Thank you,

Dede

--



Dede Galdston, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

WPS creates an equitable, challenging, and innovative learning environment where everyone belongs and every student is empowered to shape the world around them.



Excellence * Equity * Community