

HARRISON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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February 11, 2025

Dear Larson Families,

Last night at our Board of Education meeting, a parent shared their concerns about their child's safety, which involved another student and an interaction last week. While we cannot share details about the other student's consequences due to privacy laws, we do feel it is important to communicate with you and share as much information as possible, especially in line with our Guiding Belief of Openness. Most importantly, we want to communicate that our investigation determined there was no credible threat of harm.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is our highest priority. We take all threats—whether direct, indirect, impulsive, claimed as joking, etc. — seriously and conduct investigations in every instance. When necessary, this process includes a formal threat assessment involving school administration, classroom teachers, parents, law enforcement, and/or mental health professionals. This process was developed by the Clare-Gladwin RESD, updated last year, and all administrators have been trained in it.

If a threat is deemed credible using the protocol, law enforcement is involved immediately. We work diligently with them to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place to protect everyone, and notify impacted families. Those safety measures may vary depending on the facts stemming from the investigation. There may also be a separate criminal investigation pursued by law enforcement in addition to measures we may take in school.

For threats that are determined to have no credibility, which are the overwhelming majority, we address the situation through a restorative approach. This means following our progressive discipline plan while also using the moment as a learning opportunity to reinforce the importance of school safety, responsibility, and accountability. We still notify impacted families, and work with the impacted students.

A parent's worst fear, like ours as educators, is that something harmful will happen to their child while at school. We work every day to create a secure and supportive environment where all students feel safe, valued, and respected. We also appreciate the partnership of our families and community as we work together to maintain a culture of safety and care. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to one or both of us.

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