

Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division * Richmond, Michigan 48062 * (586) 727-3565 * www.richmond.k12.mi.us

Board of Education

Candess Cunningham
Deborah Michon
Angela Pacitto
Danielle Sutton
Sandra Fortuna
Kelly Oldani
Margaret Teltow

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

**Richmond Early Childhood Learning Center
& Will L. Lee Elementary School**
68399 Forest
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Heidi Mangune, Principal
Michael Gibson, Dean of Students

Richmond Middle School
35250 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Jennifer Marella, Principal
Vacant, Dean of Students

Richmond High School
35320 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Andrea Szabo, Principal
Becky Borwick, Dean of Students

January 8, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This communication is to provide you with an update on the situation that occurred in the district on January 3, 2023, as well as actions taken by the district to ensure everyone's safety.

The anti-Semitic death threat discovered last Tuesday was specifically directed towards Mr. Woodberg, Middle School Dean of Students, and his family. Mr. Woodberg began his administrative career in Richmond on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. Not counting the holiday break, Mr. Woodberg worked in the district for less than nine (9) school days prior to the discovery of the note. Late last week, **Mr. Woodberg notified the district he would be resigning as Middle School Dean of Students, effective immediately.**

The Dean of Students position was, as Mr. Woodberg stated, *"a dream job."* He was excited for his first administrative experience and work with outstanding administrators, teachers, and support staff – all dedicated to the success of students. He was equally excited to build relationships with the middle school students, who warmly welcomed him from day one. As you can imagine, the threat affected Mr. Woodberg and his family and permanently changed the way they operate and view the environment around them. While Mr. Woodberg is going to be missed, I support the decision he made for his family and himself and wish him nothing but health, happiness, and success in his future endeavors.

While the investigation continues, it is important to remember the police have made no arrest at this point. I am optimistic that the Richmond Police will conclude their investigation soon. Recognizing this is still very unsettling for many, **Chief Costello and I have arranged for Richmond Police Officers to be in each building this week during the hours students and staff are in session.** The police officers will be monitoring the security of the building and the safety

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!

of students and staff. I am grateful to have a wonderful partnership with the City of Richmond Police Department.

We all must remember, security is not the job of one individual, but the collective community. Through a collaborative effort of staff, police, students, parents and guardians, and the community, we can continue to make sure our buildings are safe. Staff and students must make sure doors are closed and locked after they enter or leave the building.

Parents and guardians must enter the buildings through the main entrance. Prior to being let in, office personnel will ask parents and guardians to state their purpose for being at the school. It is the discretion of the office personnel, as it always has been, whether to allow an individual into the building or not. If there is any reservation by office personnel, visitors will not be allowed in the building.

As part of the bond renovations, security measures have been enhanced, including additional security cameras, replacement of old exterior doors, added security swipe card access readers, and tighter measures to get into the building from the vestibules and main offices.

All afterschool academic clubs and athletic practices and competitions will resume their normal schedule. Coaches, academic advisors, and custodial staff are being asked to continue security vigilance during afterschool hours. Keeping doors and areas secure and reporting any suspicious behavior.

I continue to be proud of our staff's devotion and their continued focus to make sure students and their colleagues are safe at school. With that said, security is the responsibility of everyone. If you see something, say something. Please report any unusual behaviors or occurrences to administration or call the Richmond Police Department.

The safety of Richmond students and staff is our number one priority.

Sincerely,
Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!