

Dear Families of District 94,

The recent incident at West Chicago Community High School is a sobering situation that we, the Board of Education of District 94, take seriously. Bringing guns, look-alike guns, airsoft guns, or a weapon of any type into the school environment is unacceptable and against the law. This incident, in isolation, is a devastating situation for everyone involved - students, family, friends, and staff. When framed in the larger landscape of what is happening in our society, it is a stark indicator of the need for comprehensive services and supports from home to neighborhood to school.

One of the greatest supports that we have in our district is the cooperation of the West Chicago Police Department. Throughout this situation, the WCPD has collaborated with our school administrators - deftly respecting the line of law enforcement and school responsibilities with fidelity. In these circumstances, information often flows differently between school and police throughout the timeline in order to maintain the integrity of their investigation needs. Once those needs are met, information from both sides can be shared so that the full scope of the situation is understood. Given that and the status of the situation with the county, the school does have reason to believe that the gun was brought into the school building. As such, school discipline procedures will be administered accordingly but, as with all student matters, the results and consequences are strictly confidential.

At the October 4th Committee of the Whole Board meeting, we will be discussing our security measures and processes with the administration. At that time we will review all of the security improvements that have already been put into motion. Those improvements include:

- installation of BluePoint alert system (beginning in October)
- contracting with Navigate 360 for
  - ALICE active intruder response training
  - student threat assessment protocol
  - security building audit (occurring in October)
- institution of Den Time/Student Support Initiative for all students
- increased staffing of Social Workers and Counselors to bolster the social-emotional support framework.

These improvements complement current procedures that are in place which include:

- student entry limited to 2 entrances with ID checks at both
- locking all entrances during the school day
- increased Andy Frain security personnel
- on-site presence of a School Resource Officer and
- requiring all visitors to sign in through our Raptor Visitor Management system

As a school district, our mission centers around the words *learning, living, and leading*. Those words apply not only to the classroom but also to the circumstances and challenges that we deal with as a community together. We will continue to learn from this so that West Chicago Community High School remains the place that nurtures the hearts, souls, and minds of our students. However, with all of the negative influences impacting student choice, it is more clear than ever before that it takes a village to keep our students on the path toward success. Our students live together in community at school and when one student stumbles, it is felt by all. Therefore from start to finish, home to the classroom, we need to eliminate the ease of access to guns, increase awareness both

at home and at school of what our students are involved with, divert the interests and motivation of our students towards efforts that are productive, and implement timely mediation when students and families need social-emotional supports. In doing so, we demonstrate what leading together in the midst of adversity looks like for our kids.

Sincerely,

Bob Brown, President - Board of Education of Community High School District 94