

Dear D73 Families and Staff,

As we reflect on the events of Thursday's soft lockdown, there are many things that went well. Students and staff followed the procedures, the school administrators led with clarity, the law enforcement officials were proactive and responsive and everyone worked together to ensure that students and staff were safe and secure throughout the situation.

I thought it would be a good time to review what a soft lockdown means to school districts. A soft lockdown means there is suspicious activity in the area. The schools continue with normal daily activities within the building, but all outside activities will be moved inside. Outside activities would include any activity being held outside like recess or gym classes. Access to the building is restricted. No adult is allowed in or out of the building. Students will not be released to parents until we receive an all clear from law enforcement.

Parents will be notified by text, email, and our safety alert phone call system. Guests that come to one of our buildings in a soft lockdown will see signs posted on the doors explaining the situation and there will be no access in or out of the building. This restricted access is for the safety of the students, staff, and guests in the buildings.

When there is a situation such as this, we work closely with and receive guidance from law enforcement officials. We look to their guidance/direction on when to go into a lockdown and when to release from a lockdown. We prioritize students and staff safety while working with law enforcement during these situations. There is a communication plan to our parents for such instances, but we must first be sure we have secured a safe environment for our students and staff. We work as quickly as possible to communicate to parents about what is occurring and try to keep the communication often with updates during the situation.

I ask that you please check your contact information provided to the district for emergency alerts. You can find this information on the Parent Portal in the School Messenger tab. This is the contact information we use during such situations.

The district leadership team will continue to review the crisis management policies and procedures and work with law enforcement officials to ensure we are keeping students and staff safe, we are compliant with our practices and staying current with rules and regulations. If you have any questions/concerns, please contact me directly via phone or email.

Again, student safety is an utmost priority and we will continue to keep it at the forefront of our decision-making.