

June 3, 2022

To all RSU 16 Families and Staff,

This letter is an update on the May 20 middle school incident. We want you to know that there is still no imminent threat to our school community. As we had previously reported on May 20, May 21, and May 24, a student from the middle school created a "Kill List" on their school issued laptop computer. The list was brought to the attention of school administration on May 20. That same day the Whittier administrative team took immediate action by following our protocols and procedures. We notified the people whose names were on the list. Law enforcement was involved and is still conducting a separate investigation. The student's parents were notified and the student was released to them after being interviewed and searched and the student remains out of school.

We responded as if the list posed a real threat to the health and safety of people in our community. However, at this time, we do not believe the list is a credible threat to anyone. Nonetheless, threats of violence cannot be tolerated and are prohibited by our policies and procedures which are in place to maintain a safe environment for students and staff. Although confidentiality laws prohibit us from commenting on any specific disciplinary action with respect to a particular student, we can assure you that appropriate action will be taken in accordance with our policies and procedures and Maine law. Please refer to policies JK, JKE, JIC, and JICIA if you have further questions about consequences for policy violations involving school safety.

If you or your child is concerned about the safety of our schools, the National Association of School Psychologists has some [useful resources on how to talk to children about violence](#) to engage children in developmentally appropriate ways. The following are from the resource on points to emphasize when talking to children:

- We all play a role in the school safety. Be observant and let an adult know if you see or hear something that makes you feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened.
- There is a difference between reporting, tattling or gossiping. You can provide important information that may prevent harm either directly or anonymously by telling a trusted adult what you know or hear.

Sincerely,

Ken Healey and Amy Hediger