



**HAMDEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT**

***A Message Regarding Student Safety
From the Hamden Board of Education***

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you may be aware, our School District received a bomb threat at Hamden High School earlier this month. In response, staff at the High School safely and immediately evacuated and accounted for all students at the school. Thankfully, the threat was a hoax.

Since then, however, several parents across the district have inquired as to the specific Board of Education response plans for such events. This is, of course, understandable: each day you entrust to us the safety of that which is most precious to you -- your children. I want to ensure you that all of our staff -- from teachers, to administrators, to clerks and custodians -- value and zealously guard the safety and security of your children above all else.

To that end, our school administration has developed security and evacuation protocols for each school in conjunction with the Hamden Police and Fire Departments. It is the recommendation of those first responders, however, that the District *not* make publicly available our detailed response and evacuation procedures. The reason is obvious: we do not want those with nefarious motives to know in advance how we will respond to a threat.

Nevertheless, any parent, guardian or teacher is free to meet privately with a building principal for additional information. The District is also committed to making as much information as possible available to you on the day of an event (should one occur) on the District website, ***www.hamden.org***, and through the Superintendent's Office, ***203-407-2090***. As always, you can also contact any Board of Education member directly to discuss further your concerns.

Additionally, I want to note that we are constantly reviewing our response protocols. Anytime you have to evacuate more than 2000 students and staff from a building (such as at the High School) there will be procedures to improve upon and refine. Indeed, after this latest threat, we recently met with Chief of Police Wydra, and representatives from the busing company, to discuss improved procedures and responses to variables such as weather and traffic.

Again, the safety of your children is our primary concern. Always. Thank you.

Michael C. D'Agostino
Chairman, Hamden Board of Education

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CC: All Staff