

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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NOTICE TO PARENTS

*Catherine C. Latham, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools*

Dear Parents:

On May 1st the staff at Lynn English High School found some graffiti on the wall of one of the boys' bathrooms on the second floor of the school. The graffiti had the date "5/25/18" marked over in pencil multiple times and underneath a lightly pencil-sketched rudimentary picture of a gun with what appeared to be the start of a stick figure drawing. The principal and the school staff immediately began an investigation. That investigation included a review of the camera footage from the corridor outside the bathroom and interviews with many students. After a thorough investigation the principal and his staff felt that there was no viable threat.

Students in all schools both here in Lynn and in other systems write messages on school walls. Those messages are not always threatening, but when they are, we take them very seriously and always conduct investigations. Most times those investigations involve the Lynn Police Department, our own School Resource Officers and our School Security and Emergency Planning Liaison. In this most recent case, as a result of the school's investigation, the Principal and his staff felt that the situation warranted no further action. Parents were notified on May 22nd.

To err on the side of caution, the school requested and received a police presence in and outside the school on May 25th and again on May 29th, although that date was not written anywhere. The principal spoke with all students in the school on Thursday May 24th and reassured them that all will be done to protect their safety. There have been no problems at the school.

Although the principal and school staff were confident that any perceived threat was unsubstantiated, we know that hearing about this issue on May 22nd was upsetting to many parents and the community in general, and for that we sincerely apologize. So that a similar situation will never happen again, we are currently working on new protocols and procedures for cases such as this. Among other requirements, the protocols will require school principals to notify the Lynn Police Department through the School Resource Officer, if the school has one, or our School Security and Emergency Planning Liaison of any and all threats or perceived threats made by students verbally or in writing regardless of where those threats might be found.

The safety of our staff and our students is, of course, our primary focus. The number and severity of school shootings across the country is frightening and horrifying, and we will do everything we can to protect our students and inform parents in a timely manner about issues of grave concern.

Very truly yours,

Catherine C. Latham, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools