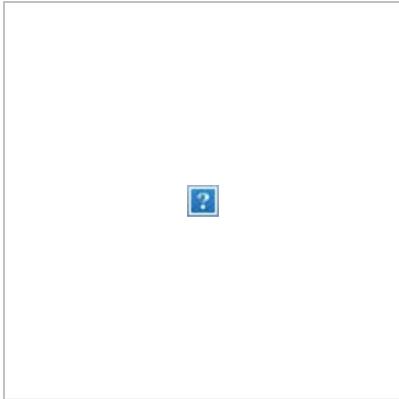


From: [Dr. Bruce Law](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 10-06-2016 Update from Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law re Student Safety
Date: Thursday, October 6, 2016 5:44:17 PM



Superintendent Dr. Bruce Law

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have three important updates to share with you this afternoon.

1. The Darien Police Department learned of a new threat on social media yesterday and they determined it was not credible. We were informed of this post today.
 2. After learning from the DuPage County State's Attorney's media release at 1:28 PM Wednesday that explosives were involved in the charges filed against the student from Monday evening's threat, District 86 ordered a sweep of Hinsdale South High School building and grounds conducted by the Darien Police Department and bomb-sniffing dogs. Nothing was found.
 3. Attached is the announcement read at Hinsdale South and Hinsdale Central this morning to students and staff (Thursday) at 8:00 AM.
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1. Today, the Darien Police informed us that last evening they received a report of a new threat posted on social media. The Darien Police investigated and determined that the threat was not credible. If the Darien Police Department were to determine that any threat is credible, we would take the appropriate action, including canceling or delaying the start of school.
2. The timeline below explains the events that began Monday evening and how those events unfolded to lead to Wednesday night's sweep.

On Monday night shortly before 8:00 p.m., complaints were filed at the Darien Police Department stating that two Hinsdale South students posted a threat against another student on social media. At that time, the Darien Police Department began their investigation of the two students implicated in the complaints. One student was detained and brought into custody; the other student was dropped from the investigation after questioning. We were also

informed overnight Monday that the police searched these two students' lockers and found nothing. In the early hours on Tuesday, Darien Police informed us that they had contained the threat and that there was nothing in the threat that would put students at risk Tuesday. We were given no information while Darien Police conducted their investigation. Accordingly, we held school as usual Tuesday.

We communicated the information above to parents in an email sent at 5:00 AM Tuesday morning followed by a text sent at 6:00 AM Tuesday morning to notify parents to check their email to ensure that people saw it. We were given no information while Darien Police conducted their investigation.

Late Tuesday evening we learned that charges would be filed against the student. We did not know what the charges were or what evidence would be presented to substantiate those charges. We communicated to parents at 9:16 AM on Wednesday all that we knew: that a hearing would take place that morning, that charges were going to be filed against the student in custody, and that reporters in the courtroom may communicate the details of those charges before we were notified what those charges were by the State's Attorney.

At 1:28 PM Wednesday, we received the media release from the DuPage County State's Attorney listing the charges what the charges were and the evidence the State's Attorney presented. We communicated to parents with the State's Attorney's media release attached at 2:17 PM what we learned.

Because we learned Wednesday afternoon that the evidence for the charges included possession of an explosive, we asked Darien Police to bring in dogs to conduct a search of the entire school and grounds for explosives, and that search was conducted late Wednesday evening. Nothing was found.

Had the Darien Police Department determined such a search was prudent to conduct on Tuesday, they would have done so before we allowed students or employees to be in the school. Had Darien Police determined from their investigation Tuesday that it was prudent to conduct a sweep of the school, we would have done so immediately. We asked Darien Police to bring in the dogs out of an abundance of caution once we learned that the threat included explosives.

We will continue to update you when we have information to share. As we learned in the State's Attorney media release, the defendant's next appearance in court is October 19, and the State's Attorney's Office has told us not to expect any additional information before that court appearance. Unless they surprise us, we expect our next communication to families on this matter to be October 19.

District 86 will continue to cooperate with the Darien Police Department and the State's Attorney to ensure both the safety of our schools and accountability for the actions of those who threaten that safety. Additionally, the District will work within its student discipline policy to hold the student involved with this matter accountable at a District level.

Please talk to your children about these events and encourage them to reach out to counselors or social workers if they want to talk to someone at school. Please also encourage them to say something whenever they hear about something or see something in social media, even if they report it anonymously to our Tip Line.

Sincerely,

Bruce Law, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Attachments:



[Announcement to Students 10-06-2016.pdf.pdf](#) (44.9 KB)

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Hinsdale Twp HSD 86 | 5500 South Grant Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521 | 630-655-6100



ROBERT B. BERLIN
STATE'S ATTORNEY
DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2016

Contact: Paul Darrah

(630) 407-8160

High School Student Faces Weapons Charges

WHEATON - DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin and Darien Chief of Police Greg Thomas announced today that a sixteen year old male Hinsdale South student has been charged with six Felony weapons charges following an investigation into an alleged threat he made aimed at a fellow student. The juvenile appeared in court this morning where Judge Michael Wolfe ordered that he be held following a brief detention hearing. In all, the juvenile has been charged with one count of Possession of an Explosive or Incendiary Device (Class 1 Felony), two counts of Unlawful Use of a Weapon (Class 3 Felony), three counts of Possession of Firearms without a FOID Car (Class 3 Felony) and two counts of Disorderly Conduct (Class 4 Felony.) His next court appearance is scheduled for October 19, 2016.

On October 3, 2016, a Hinsdale South student came forward with information regarding a posting the minor allegedly made on Snapchat that was threatening in nature toward another student. An investigation into the matter led authorities to the minor's home where, after obtaining consent to search, officers found several guns, ammunition, paper shooting targets, explosives,

knives, brass knuckles and gas masks. The minor was taken into custody at that time without incident.

“We take any threat to the safety and security of our students and teachers very seriously,” Berlin said. “Students and teachers alike must not fear for their safety at school. With fear in our classrooms, teachers can’t teach and students can’t learn. First and foremost, I want to thank the young man who came forward and brought these alleged threats to our attention. Sometimes it can take a tremendous amount of courage to do the right thing Thanks to this brave, responsible young man, a horrible tragedy may have been averted. I would also like to thank the authorities at Hinsdale South High School for their complete cooperation throughout this entire investigation. I would like to thank the Darien Police Department for their outstanding work in quickly identifying the suspect and diffusing what could have been a truly devastating situation. Lastly, I would like to thank Assistant State’s Attorneys Michael Pawl, Louisa Nuckolls and Kristin Johnston for their work in on this very disturbing case.”

“This case epitomizes the need for parents to be involved and to monitor their children’s social media use,” Chief Thomas said.

The investigation into the matter continues. Anyone with information regarding this matter is asked to call the Darien Police tip line at 630-353-8150.

Members of the public are reminded that this complaint contains only charges and is not proof of the defendants’ guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government’s burden to prove his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Paul Darrah
Communications Manager
DuPage County State's Attorney's Office
503 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 407-8160