



MEQUON-THIENSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

CITY OF MEQUON AND VILLAGE OF THIENSVILLE

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Demond A. Means, Ed.D., Superintendent

Eric J. Dimmitt, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

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December 2, 2011

Dear Mequon-Thiensville Parent:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding an incident that occurred at Homestead High School earlier this month. By this time, some of you may have heard what the media is reporting about this incident. This letter is not a response to local news reporting of the situation. However, school and district officials feel it is important to provide additional information about this serious situation, the District's response to the information initially provided, and the follow-up occurring here in Mequon-Thiensville.

On November 10th, the Homestead administration first received information about sexual activity that had occurred on campus in the early evening of November 3rd. School administrators immediately began a joint investigation into the incidents with the school's police liaison officer. The investigation included interviews with each of the students involved and a review of school surveillance tapes. Based on all of the information obtained in the investigation, it was established that the sexual acts were consensual. No one involved in the acts disputed this determination. Although we cannot disclose specific action taken due to student privacy laws, each of the students involved received both school-level and legal consequences for their misconduct.

After each student had served his/her school-assigned consequence for the misconduct that occurred on November 3rd, the administration arranged follow-up meetings with each of those students and their parents. The purpose of those individual meetings was to reinforce behavioral expectations moving forward, ensuring as much as possible that future voluntary acts of misconduct did not occur at school. Meetings were scheduled to occur on November 21st with each of the four students involved. The administration met with the male students and was able to reconfirm the facts of November 3rd as originally provided. The parent of the female student did not make that student available until November 30th.

On November 30th, the District learned for the first time that it was being alleged that the sexual acts with two of the male students were not consensual. The administration immediately re-opened the investigation and notified the Mequon Police of this new information. The District attempted to obtain additional information from the female student regarding the incidents in light of the new allegations. The request for additional information was refused. All parties agreed to reconvene the following morning, December 1st.

On December 1st, school and District officials were prepared to meet with the female student, her father, the family's attorney, and law enforcement. However, the student's parent contacted the administration and indicated that they would not be attending the meeting. Despite not being able to interview the female student regarding the new information, school officials are continuing to investigate the new allegations. During the December 1st 6:00 p.m. news broadcast on WTMJ-TV, school and District officials heard for the first time the details of new allegations of what occurred on November 3rd.

Homestead High School and Mequon-Thiensville School District administrators remain committed to protecting the safety and security of our students. As such, we are currently reevaluating our approach to after-school and evening supervision, knowing that the school must remain open in the evening to accommodate the range of co-curricular and community activities that take place at Homestead on a daily basis.

The information shared with the media yesterday is cause for concern to all of us as members of this school community. School and District officials recognize the gravity of the recent allegations and are doing everything possible to bring a swift resolution to this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Demond A. Means". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Demond A. Means, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools