

In the aftermath of events that have recently transpired which have profoundly affected the lives of everyone in the Fredonia-Moccasin educational communities, as well as the surrounding areas, I thought a letter of appreciation, explanation, and information would be appropriate.

Appreciation – I would like to first and foremost thank all the law enforcement agencies and individuals involved; our hearts especially go out to Deputy Brian Harris and his family for the ultimate sacrifice that was so freely given for our protection. I would also like to commend and thank the staff at school who handled them selves in such a protective and professional manner. Each and every one of them placed the needs and well being of the students first and I commend you all for that. Finally, as is the case in these circumstances, many rumors, misinformation, and inaccurate facts spread around faster than one can keep up with; I want to thank all the parents and community members for their patience and understanding under the circumstances.

Explanation – I know some were concerned about decisions that were made when it came to holding or not holding school. I can assure you that the safety and best interest of your children were our paramount concern. Administration was not informed about any events that took place Wednesday night until Thursday after the kids had already arrived at school. Under the circumstances, we felt it safer to keep the kids at school rather than send them home. There were two reasons for this decision:

First: Law enforcement officers were communicating that there was no immediate threat or danger.

Second: The probability that parents would be prepared to have their kids at home with proper supervision was very slim.

In regards to releasing all students at 3:00 – K-6 students go home normally at 3:00. The district's decision to release students in grades 7-12 came due to a number staff members and students who became more and more unsettled as the day grew on. The decision was made to go ahead and release the secondary students with the younger grades to go home via their normal manner; thereby allowing older siblings the opportunity to supervise the younger. At that time, no communication had come to the school of any immediate threat or danger. Information about the shooting that took place came after the students had already been sent home.

The decision to hold school on Monday came after much discussion with the law enforcement involved, who advised administration that they felt there was no reason not to hold school.

I hope this clears up any misinformation and/or inaccurate facts that were passed around.

Information: Finally, I would like to inform you as to what has and will be taking place now that the immediate danger has been relieved. The following outlines those things currently completed/planned, but should in no way be conceived as a completed list or the only steps that will be taken.

- Held faculty meetings with staff Monday morning –
- Held professional debriefing sessions with all staff Tuesday morning –
- Arrangements have been made through Community Behavioral health Services to provide counseling for those staff and/or students desiring such service –
- Will hold debriefing meetings with local law enforcement and school administration to review the chronological events and steps taken to find areas of improvement –
- School Administrative Cabinet (Crisis team) will review emergency procedures for improvements –

It is my goal to return our school environment back to the expected order of climate as soon as possible being sensitive to the fact that all individuals involved will have their own transitional time frame.

Again, thanks to all individuals involved!

Nick S. Bartlett

Superintendent

Fredonia – Moccasin Unified School District