

Greetings,

As you are aware, the Northfield Public Schools responded to an emergency situation in southeast Northfield on Tuesday afternoon. The situation was prompted by an individual in his home making threats to inflict harm on others and claiming he had access to firearms. The individual, to our knowledge, never threatened children or our school district in any way.

The District was made aware of the situation just as students prepared to leave the Middle School and High School for the day. The District was being advised by the Northfield Police Department to keep students who lived in the neighborhood (near Harbor and Ford Streets) away from the impacted area. The Middle School and High School students normally scheduled to be dropped off at their homes in the impacted area remained on their buses, regrouped at Sibley Elementary, and then were returned to their individual buildings. Northfield Police helped redirect walkers and student drivers away from the impacted neighborhood as they were leaving before the District could effectively communicate with them. A Skylert message advised parents of the situation and indicated that they could pick their children up at their individual buildings. Northfield High School's girls soccer team, that normally practices at Spring Creek Park near the impacted neighborhood, were instructed to practice at Memorial Field instead.

The impacted neighborhood included some students in the Sibley Elementary attendance zone. These Sibley students, both bus riders and walkers, were kept at Sibley since their later dismissal time allowed for this option. Again, parents were instructed via Skylert message that they could pick up their children at Sibley.

At approximately 4:15 pm, the District was notified that the suspect was allegedly at large in a vehicle. Northfield Police assured the District they did not believe the suspect was headed for any school, but advised students engaged in outdoor practices be brought inside and precautionary lockdown procedures were activated at all schools in the District. During the precautionary lockdown, Northfield Police assisted the Northfield High School football team to load its bus safely in order to depart for the Section playoff game in Owatonna. At approximately 5 pm, the District was notified by Northfield Police that the suspect was confirmed to have fled Northfield and that our precautionary lockdown should be ended and the District returned to regular operating procedures. Shortly thereafter, the Northfield Police announced the suspect had been apprehended in Inver Grove Heights.

These are difficult situations. The District's goal is to ensure the safety of our students with an appropriate emergency response and to keep families informed throughout any emergency. Six Skylert email messages were sent to families during the emergency along with two voice messages and two text messages. The District also posted four updates on its web page.

As always, we will be reviewing and reflecting about our response to this situation in order to learn for future emergencies. We appreciate your support and confidence to respond to these situations appropriately, with the safety of your children as our top priority. Many thanks to the

Northfield Police Department for their work and keeping the District informed about the situation. Thank you to Benjamin Bus for their collaboration with the District to ensure our students were kept out of the impacted area on very short notice. We also want to commend our building staff and administrators for their diligent, timely, and professional efforts in supporting our students and families during this difficult situation.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about how the District managed this situation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Richardson, Ph.D.
Superintendent