



PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MILTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02186

JAMES F. JETTE
Superintendent of Schools
(617)-696-4808/09

JANET SHEEHAN
Assistant Superintendent
For Curriculum & Human Resources
(617)-696-4811/12

AMY J. DEXTER
Assistant Superintendent
For Business Affairs
(617)-696-5041

June 13, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As we returned to school today, Monday, June 13th, I wanted to provide you with a brief update on our plans for Pierce Middle School. As mentioned in the Zoom meeting with parents/guardians last night, today will be a normal structured day with teacher check-ins throughout the day. We will also have additional Adjustment Counselors on hand to provide support to both students and staff. Additionally, we will have a police presence in the building. MPD School Resource Officers Christopher Potts and Maria Poles-Martin are currently in the building and a police cruiser will be stationed close by.

Yesterday at 12:00pm, we held an optional meeting for all Pierce Middle School faculty and staff to hear from them, address their concerns, and give them some much needed support. Last night at 5:00pm, we held a Zoom meeting for Pierce parents/guardians to afford them the same opportunity. Both meetings were facilitated by Maria Trozzi. Ms. Trozzi has served as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Boston University School of Medicine, Director of the nationally renowned Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center, a consultant to the Child Development Unit at Children's Hospital, and she is also an author. Maria has provided support to Milton over the years and was quick to offer to help now. Click [here](#) for more information about her work.

For your convenience, I wanted to provide a response to some of the frequently asked questions from last night:

1. **Will there be a police presence on Monday and this week?** Yes, we will have our Milton Police School Resource Officers in the building.
2. **What will Monday look like for the students?** Today will be "structure as usual" with teachers checking-in with students. We will have additional Adjustment Counselors on hand. We will not have grade level assemblies.
3. **Will teachers be on the lookout for students who are quiet, showing signs of stress?** Absolutely! Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Administrators and Adjustment Counselors will be vigilant and support students as needed.

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The Milton Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, transgender status, gender transitioning, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, or military status, in any of its programs, activities or operations. These include, but are not limited to, admissions, equal access to programs and activities, hiring and firing of staff, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Milton Public Schools. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Janet Sheehan, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Human Resources, 617-696-4812

4. **What will you say to students about the status of the investigation?** The status of the investigation is ongoing. If you have information to share, please speak to an Administrator or any other trusted adult in the building. Please encourage your students to refrain from engaging in speculation of the rumor mill on social media.
5. **Why did the lockdown take so long? Why two lockdowns?** As indicated in my letter sent on Friday afternoon, there was a bullet found in the bathroom on the second floor and the police were immediately notified at 10:10am. The second and third bullets were found approximately 2 hours later. Please note that we had to wait for the K-9 units to arrive and also, the Pierce campus is extremely large and the K-9 units had to do a thorough job to make sure there was not a weapon in the building.
6. **Was a gun found at any point?** No. At no time was a gun found during or after the lockdown.
7. **Why couldn't staff and students be told more as the situation developed?** It was assumed that the perpetrator(s) were in the building and alerting people of the police tactics/strategies could have compromised the investigation. More importantly, we did not want to share misinformation.
8. **What can you tell us about the person/people involved? Will they be in school?** I cannot share the name/names of anyone involved nor can I give the details of the investigation. This is a police matter and anyone involved is entitled to his/her/their due process.
9. **Will you share the outcome of the investigation at some point?** I will definitely bring closure to this situation when it is 100% resolved.

In closing, I want to assure you that anyone suspected to be involved in last Friday's incident will not be in school today. I understand the desire to have a name(s) and to know more about the details; however, this is a police matter and we have to respect the investigation. Any person(s) suspected of being involved is also entitled to due process. Although Friday's incident caused a lockdown, inflicted fear, anxiety, and emotional distress for our students, staff and parents/guardians, I am pleased to report that nobody was physically harmed.

I want to thank the Milton Police Department for their quick response, partnership and ongoing safety training. I also want to thank the Boston and Quincy Police Departments for their assistance. We will be debriefing with staff and MPD to make any necessary enhancements in our response to such incidents.

As always, thank you for your understanding and support.

Best,



James F. Jette, Superintendent

25 Gile Road, Milton, Massachusetts 02186

The Milton Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, gender identity, transgender status, gender transitioning, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, or military status, in any of its programs, activities or operations. These include, but are not limited to, admissions, equal access to programs and activities, hiring and firing of staff, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Milton Public Schools. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, students, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Janet Sheehan, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Human,

617-696-4812