

USD 377 PARENT ADVISORY DISTRICT ON HIGH SECURITY ALERT

EFFINGHAM, KS – Wednesday, May 02, 2007 – The school district has been informed by the County Sheriff's department of a threat made by someone on a social networking website. The threat was not directed at any one school, only that it would be a school in Kansas. It appears that some of the students involved in or having knowledge of this threat are residents of Atchison County. For that reason, all Atchison County Schools are high alert today and taking extra security precautions.

Precautionary measures being taken by USD 377 to include:

- Searching all book bags and coats of students as they enter school today (HS/MS). Sheriff's officers will be assisting at each building.
- All staff members have been advised of the situation and asked to immediately notify their building principal of anything suspicious or unusual that may be cause for concern (this should be standard operating procedure in every USD 377 attendance center)
- Securing all doors and establishing protocols and procedures for how to handle visitors to the building. All outside entrances will be locked in every attendance center until further notice.
- Students will not be allowed to go outside for recess or during lunch break until authorities have determined that we can stand down from high alert status.
- Teachers have been advised to not let students out of class unless it is an emergency. Students have been advised to use the restroom between classes and during lunch break. With that in mind, we expect staff members to use good judgment should a student need to use the restroom during class time.
- Staff members have been assigned to cover all entrances and exits during passing period to ensure that we do not have anyone leaving or entering without proper authority.

Questions or concerns should be directed to the Board Office at 913-833-5050.

This situation is an unfortunate reality of the society we live in today. Terrorism and threats are cause for serious concern for all of us who believe in a free and open society. We understand our responsibility and will take every measure necessary to see that our students are provided with a safe and secure learning environment.

Sincerely,

Steve Wiseman
Superintendent, USD 377