



EAST JACKSON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Patrick Little
Superintendent

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January 24, 2015

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

I write to you today to present the facts regarding an incident that occurred at the WAY–East Jackson program last Friday afternoon. WAY–East Jackson is an alternative high school program located on Dettman Road. Forty-seven students attend the program.

This Friday, a WAY staff member noticed a gun in a student’s jacket pocket. The student was not wearing the jacket, but it lay near the student. A staff member quickly confiscated the gun and asked the student to leave the room with two staff members. The student complied with staff directions and did not resist. When questioned, the student admitted to possessing the weapon. Law enforcement was called and promptly arrived on scene.

Fortunately, the student in question did not attempt to use the weapon at school; neither did the student did not brandish the weapon or act threateningly. Regardless of outcome, the student acted in an entirely unacceptable manner by bringing a weapon onto the school premises. State law will direct our disciplinary actions, which will be most serious in nature.

As the parents, students, and community members of East Jackson Schools you should understand the nature of Friday’s incident. East Jackson Schools continues daily to create a safe learning environment for all students. I commend the WAY–East Jackson staff for acting quickly and keeping everyone safe.

Please contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have regarding this situation.

Sincerely,

Pat Little

Christian Harder 3/3/2017 10:39 PM

Comment [1]: Do you simply mean “alternative high school”? If so, change “program” to “campus” in the previous sentence and delete “program” here. Consider also “program at the campus on Dettman Road” for clarity’s sake.

Christian Harder 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [2]: This explanation of WAY seems a bit awkwardly placed. Consider moving it downward, in the summary paragraphs; it’s better to address the most pertinent details (the incident) first.

Christian Harder 3/3/2017 11:49 PM

Comment [3]: Give specific dates when regarding an emergency situation.

Christian Harder 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [4]: Both here and in the phrase “a weapon,” you need to be specific. It may seem difficult, but specificity increases clarity.

Jon Crylen 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [5]: Do you mean “helping students with class projects”? Also, I don’t think it matters here whether those projects are “typical” or not.

Christian Harder 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [6]: If same staff member, specify; if not, explain how a different staff member was alerted to the situation.

Christian Harder 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [7]: “Staff members” may need a different phrase to describe these employees.

Jon Crylen 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [8]: Or “gun, and two other staff members escorted the student out of the room.”

Jon Crylen 3/3/2017 10:22 PM

Comment [9]: This is an example of the passive voice. Try “[Person] called the police, who arrived promptly on the scene.”

Jon Crylen 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [10]: Rephrasing OK? “You” needs to follow the comma, otherwise the first part of the sentence is a dangling modifier. Alternatively, rephrase as “I thought it important that you—as parents, students, and community members—understand the nature of Friday’s incident.”

Christian Harder 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [11]: I might include a sentence of solidarity (“this is devastating to our community, we are all deeply affected”).

Christian Harder 1/24/2016 8:40 AM

Comment [12]: Sign with a pen here. Also, even if it’s on your letterhead, I recommend including your title and contact information beneath your name, given the nature of the incident.