

Dear Hawthorn District 73 Community,

I wish to inform you about an incident that took place at our District Office on Monday, July 3rd. An adult, unassociated with our district, was briefly allowed entry into our District Office. Our staff, noting the unfamiliar presence, acted promptly and appropriately to secure the premises and safeguard a student that was present, while notifying local law enforcement. We have now learned that this person, known as a "First Amendment Auditor," intended to provoke a negative reaction from our staff. The individual recorded the entire interaction, later shared on YouTube.

As a district, we value transparency and have processes in place to allow community members access to public information. I would like to remind everyone that FOIA forms are readily available both online and at our District Office, for those interested in requesting information or documents. However, in order to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students, we do not offer walk-in tours at our District Office or other facility without a prior appointment. Rest assured, we are thoroughly reviewing our security protocols and collaborating with law enforcement to address this situation. The safety and security of our students, staff and families remain our top priority.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Hannigan

*Hawthorn District 73 Superintendent*