



KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Excellence

Mr. Jason Schimpf
School Business Administrator

Dr. James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Patricia Calandro
Assistant Superintendent

September 9, 2024

Dear School Community:

I want to take a moment to address a matter of utmost importance regarding the safety and security of our school community. Less than a week after the tragic school shooting in Georgia, we find ourselves responding to a series of social media posts that appear to be an attempt to create panic and disrupt our schools.

On Sunday evening, a TikTok post threatening a school shooting on Monday, September 9th, specifically targeted Woodbury Public Schools and several other area schools, made its rounds on social media. Shortly afterward, a second TikTok post began circulating, threatening to target every school within twenty minutes of the Kingsway Regional School District.

Please rest assured that we are taking these threats very seriously. I have been in close contact with the Woolwich Township Police Department and the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office to assess the credibility of these threats. I am relieved to inform you that the initial threat aimed at Woodbury City Public Schools was traced back to an adolescent female who created the TikTok account. She is currently in police custody. At the time of this correspondence, detectives are actively investigating the source of the second TikTok post.

I want to emphasize that we will never put our school community in harm's way. After thorough evaluation, the threats involving Kingsway Regional Middle and High Schools have not been deemed credible. Therefore, ***our schools will remain open on Monday, September 9th.***

I am aware that these TikTok posts are circulating among students, causing confusion and heightened anxiety throughout our community. To ensure the continued safety of our students, faculty, and staff, we will maintain close communication with the Woolwich Township Police Department and increase police presence at our schools starting Monday. This is in addition to the three full-time school resource officers who are already stationed daily at our schools.

We want our families to know that we have robust security protocols in place and will not tolerate any threats to our school environment. Together, we are committed to safeguarding the well-being of our school community every day.

I also ask for your support in discouraging your children from sharing these videos further and reminding them to report any potential threats immediately.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this message, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

James J. Lavender
Superintendent of Schools

Home of the Dragons