

**October 9, 2025
PTA Meeting Minutes**

- I. Principals' Update with Ernest Sutton, MPS Director of Emergency Management, Safety and Security Inspector Torborg, Minneapolis Police Department, 2nd Precinct**
- a. Communications
 - i. Rochelle is working with the District Communications Department to ensure all parents are getting important communications.
 - 1. Parents – log in and ensure your information is up to date and you have “opted in”.
 - ii. Rochelle communicates directly with Safety and Security, and they communicate with MPD.
 - 1. Any communication that we are waiting for from an outside source, we have Ernest in constant communication with (e.g. police).
 - 2. District Office constructs the communication, and Rochelle reviews (and adds additional verified info if possible) before she sends to parents.
 - b. School Safety
 - i. The school practices codes.
 - 1. Code reds are traumatic (lights off, blinds drawn, ducked on the ground, hiding, hands over head, being quiet), and the school works to ensure the drills are age and developmentally appropriate.
 - a. A code red has never happened at the school.
 - ii. Standard procedure at Waite Park is a “lockout” (all exterior doors locked).
 - 1. If the school is not familiar with you, they will scan your license and give you a visitor badge.
 - 2. The difference between the code yellow and S.O.P. is that children were not allowed out for recess.
 - iii. During the threat (code yellow), the school went into a hybrid (yellow/red) model:
 - 1. The children stayed in their classrooms, blinds drawn, and continued learning.
 - 2. They traveled as a class to the lunchroom, and they took their food back to the classroom to eat.
 - c. The Threat and Investigation
 - i. The FBI became involved because when threats like this are made, they are referred to the MPLS Behavioral Analysis Unit, always working in conjunction with the FBI.
 - 1. The FBI has greater resources than MPD alone.

2. The MPD/FBI deemed the threat non-credible. They tracked the number to a google voice number that had been hacked and had made similar calls all over the nation.
 - a. This was a “swatting” call. They are used to create chaos, fear, and use expensive resources. They are, unfortunately, getting more common.
 - i. Swatting: the action or practice of making a prank call to emergency services in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of armed police officers to a particular address.
 - ii. MPS is very careful and intentional about what they can share and when. They work directly with MPD to find out if a threat is credible, and respond as if that threat is credible until it is proven not.
 - iii. The police were at the school within two minutes of the office calling 911. The full perimeter of the school was secured within 10 minutes.
 - iv. We will see more squad cars around schools in general because of Annunciation. It does not mean there is a threat at the school, it means the PD are patrolling around the schools more as a precaution and part of their job.
- d. Discussion and Feedback
 - i. Communication - parents would like more communication in serious event situations, even if it is just an update that there is no additional information at this time.
 1. Texting in addition to emails is desired and is probably more equitable.
 2. There is a collective annoyance that MPD knew the call was a swatting call, and that fact wasn't disclosed to the school and parents ASAP.
 3. Parents are upset that the Chief got on the news and shared information about a suspect without even being fully briefed about the situation; complicating the matter unnecessarily.
 - a. Ins. Torborg will take the feedback back.
 4. The District was unaware of continued anxiety from parents after the threat was deemed noncredible/end of investigation.
 - a. Ernest will take the feedback back to the district about being better at putting more communications out to families and ensuring all families are getting the communication
 5. A parent recommended joining forces with the I Love You Guys Foundation (organized after Sandy Hook).
 - ii. Respect and love to teachers and staff for reacting quickly, keeping the children safe both physically and emotionally, insulating them from the horror they could have felt.
 - iii. District Resources
 1. The District shouldn't wait for Rochelle to reach out to provide support to the school; the school was going through enough, and the District should know when to step up.

- iv. School Design

- 1. A concern was shared about windows. The PTA and Rochelle are in active discussions about potential security measures.

II. Minneapolis Families for Public Schools

- a. Christian spoke to what MFPS core values are and how it impacts the schools.
 - i. Waite Park is the most committed community so far.
- b. MFPS works off four core principles. They developed these through survey work to identify each priority area:
 - i. Class sizes.
 - ii. Increasing sped funding.
 - iii. EEL funding.
 - iv. Fair pay wages for education supports.
- c. MFPS will be attending the school board meeting on Tuesday Oct 14th at 5:00pm at the Davis Center.
 - i. Reminder that there is strength in numbers, please attend if you are able.

III. Say Boo to the Flu Event (Thursday, October 23, 4-7pm)!

- a. We have plenty of availability for flu shots.
 - i. They are for the entire family, use the sign-up link!
- b. A few more volunteers would be great (a different sign-up link)
- c. Scholastic Book Fair
- d. MPS Food Truck is providing dinner.