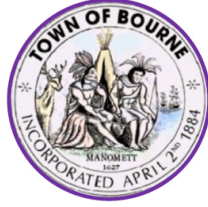
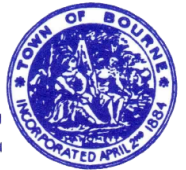


Bourne Public Schools

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Bourne, MA 02532
508.759.0660
508.759.1107 (fax)
www.bourneps.org



TOWN OF BOURNE POLICE DEPARTMENT



35 Armory Road, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, 02532
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JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE BOURNE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND BOURNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

December 17, 2021

With recent events involving perceived, hoax, or actual threats involving our schools, we have received many questions regarding the amount of information released and what steps were taken to investigate the threat. To help our community better understand the layers of protocols that are activated during and after a reported threat, Bourne Public Schools and the Bourne Police Department are providing the information below.

First and foremost, any threat involving any of the Bourne Schools, no matter the nature or credibility, is taken seriously as soon as it is first reported.

Unfortunately, not all threats are reported to the police or school administration first, or in a timely manner. In some instances, investigators may only become aware of concerns as people start sharing rumors they heard on social media. It is for this reason that it is very important that anyone with information about concerning statements, suspicious activity, or threats, contact the police department and school administration immediately.

Relying on facts, both the police and school investigate all information of which we become aware. These investigations can include the following: searches, home visits, information and data review, consultation with mental health experts, and verification of access to weapons.

The investigations always involve multiple, thorough conversations to gain further clarity into the nature and credibility of the threat.

Regardless of how we become aware of a concerning situation, a police investigation is immediately initiated, and the police department keeps in constant communication with school administration.

The Police Department has dedicated School Resource Officers assigned to both Bourne Public Schools and the Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School. These School Resource Officers receive extensive training specifically related to school investigations and work within the framework established by the Commonwealth of

Massachusetts. They work on building relationships with the students and staff every day, which assists during these times of critical investigations. In parallel to the police investigation, school administration is performing an administrative investigation. During this time, we are also communicating about the level of detail that can be shared broadly and the messaging that is appropriate at the time.

Both the police and schools have a joint goal of ensuring the safety of all students, with the police investigation analyzing violations of the law and the school investigation determining violations of school policy which would result in discipline. We are bound to student privacy regarding specific consequences for each event; however, school discipline policies are outlined in student handbooks.

If at any point, it is determined that there is even a possibility of an actual danger to students, steps are immediately taken to prevent that danger, including communication from the schools to parents, evaluating the need for an increased police presence, sheltering in place, or closing the schools.

In most situations, as the facts evolve during the police investigation, the evidence will indicate that there is not a likelihood of actual danger. This can be determined for various reasons including the facts not supporting the rumors, or confirmed statements that have no intent, means, or ability. Even in instances where there is no actual danger to students, the police department continues to work with school administration while they determine the correct disciplinary or corrective path.

Regarding the release of information, any danger to the schools or its students will always be reported by the school and police in various methods including social media and emergency notifications. If there is no actual danger, general information is released; however, not all information can be legally released to the public, such as disciplinary actions, criminal charges, or mental health information.

The priority of the Bourne Police Department and Bourne Public Schools is to ensure the safety of all students and we will always take all steps necessary for this purpose.

To help accomplish this goal, we must work together. If a student, parent, or anyone else becomes aware of any concerning or suspicious behavior, report it as soon as possible to the police at 508-759-4451 or, if, in the instance of student reporting during the school day, to school administration at the respective school buildings.

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