



Superintendent of Schools

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401 West Chicago Street Buchanan, Michigan 49107

*Our vision is to develop responsible, resilient, creative citizens capable of succeeding in a global society.*

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September 23, 2022

Dear Buck Families,

For the past nine days, we have had to investigate three different school threats. Our school leaders have worked with law enforcement to address the incident. As I stated during our September 19, 2022, Board of Education meeting, our responses include information that can be released without violating laws concerning student protections or confidentiality (FERPA- Family Education Rights and Privacy Act). With that being said, here are a few updates:

The incident from 9/14/2022 has been resolved based on the student code of conduct, Board of Education policies, and additional laws.

The 9/16/2022 incident, which involved handwritten notes, is still being investigated. The notes and writing samples have been sent to the crime lab in Lansing for further review.

The incident today is under review, and the student has been removed from school. A letter was shared with high school families, which can be found on our website.

As a reminder, here are the consequences of making such threats:

Anyone who makes a threat against one of our schools, our students, or our staff has an extremely high possibility of being expelled from Buchanan Community Schools and will forfeit the right to attend. If a student should desire to continue their schooling in our district, it will likely be through the Buchanan Virtual Academy. Moreover, the expelled student would not be allowed on district grounds or be able to participate in any Buchanan Community Schools extra-curricular activities, such as attending athletic games, proms, clubs, etc. Their lives will change drastically, and our schools will remain the safe places they are today. On top of an expulsion hearing, please be reminded that the Berrien County Sheriff issued a warning notice to anyone who makes a school threat. All threats will be taken seriously, will be investigated, and will be forwarded to the County Prosecutor's office.

This week, on average, over 90% of students attended school daily. This is evidence that our students and families have great partnerships with the school district and place great trust in what we do to provide a safe environment. Thank you for your continued support.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia L. Robinson".

Patricia L. Robinson

Superintendent of Buchanan Community Schools