



“Durand Area Schools is a Model District Where Students Want to Be”

An informational letter regarding the bomb threat made at Durand High School 11/28/17

Just before noon today the high school office received a phone call from a person who identified himself as “Robert” who wanted to make a bomb threat. He indicated that there was a red backpack with a bomb inside. The Durand Police Department was immediately notified and officers began arriving within a few minutes. When the call came in to the police, they quickly made a call to have a bomb sniffing dog from MSU come and help with the situation. While the dog/handler were heading to Durand, the police were able to conduct an initial sweep of the building. By the time the police finished their sweep, the dog and trainer had arrived. The dog made the sweep throughout the building and did not find any indication that there was a bomb present.

Moments after the threatening phone call was made, and before the police swept the building, Principal Dave Zuehlke made the announcement to staff and students that because of the threat, the building was going into a “secure mode” where students and staff stay in the classroom until notified otherwise. Students did not pass from class to class during this time. Later, once the building had been swept through twice by the police, Mr. Zuehlke addressed students and staff on the PA system to explain what had transpired and the rationale for why students needed to stay secure in a classroom and why we did not evacuate the building.

The procedures followed today were the county-wide protocols for a bomb threat developed by the Michigan State Police in conjunction with the FBI. One of the most common concerns in scenarios like today is people want to know why students aren’t evacuated from the building in a bomb threat. Frankly, evacuation is considered a bit of an old school response to this type of threat. The rationale for staying in place is that in classrooms, students are surrounded by walls made of cement blocks and the typical types of bombs a student may make don’t typically do enough damage to harm individuals on the other side of a cement block wall. Once large amounts of students are released into a hallway they become exposed to the potential bomb. Also, if students are evacuated to the outside of the building they become a soft target for an individual who may have terrible plans in mind and who may actually want us to evacuate the building for their purposes.

As always, the safety of students and our staff is our top priority and today’s event was taken extremely seriously. Chief Hartz and his team were very helpful and responsive and I thank them for their immediate presence and leadership. They will be conducting a complete investigation on this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding how the events of today unfolded, please do not hesitate to call me or set up a time to sit down for a visit. Thank you for your understanding,

Craig McCrumb, Durand Area Schools Superintendent.