



November 2, 2023

Dear Families,

On Wednesday, November 1, 2023 our district school board faced a safety concern that led to the closure of all NCDSB facilities, under the advisement of the Ontario Provincial Police. We know that this situation caused stress on members of our school communities.

For your general information, a local school board received notice of bomb threats in 20 unidentified schools across the northeast region. Given the broad nature of the threat and not naming the specific sites, the OPP advised school closure as a safety measure. All local school boards closed their schools. The OPP continues to investigate the matter, and the NCDSB will cooperate fully with police authorities.

Kindly note that the NCDSB did not directly receive any notice of threat.

According to the Ontario North East Region Police and School Protocol and NCDSB emergency response plans, when a bomb threat is made our staff is required to conduct a site assessment to identify any suspicious items. These site assessments were conducted and there were no concerns identified in any of the NCDSB facilities. As such, we were able to safely re-open our schools.

I would like to acknowledge our school principals who managed the situation very well, with limited information. As well, our parents/guardians need to be commended for their partnership and assistance in protecting the safety of students and staff. Thank you.

As in every emergency situation, we will debrief on the processes we employed on November 1, 2023 and make changes to our response plan. We know that the timing of the event was problematic, and we encountered some challenges with student transportation. I assure you that we will address these matters and we will discuss appropriate planning requirements to be even better prepared for similar situations in the future.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we managed this difficult situation.

Sincerely,

Director of Education