

TAKE ACTION – for our kid's safety

Please consider reaching out to the decision makers about ensuring the safety of students is of utmost importance for a healthy learning environment. Here is a sample of a letter previously sent with bolded sections to potentially include in your personal communication.

To Whom It May Concern,

In Michigan, children are by law to be provided free and public education. At what point do we choose to add “safe” to that sentence? There are many things that our children deal with on a daily basis that we more than likely did not have to think about as a child. Coming home alive from school should not be one of them!

When we look at laws that protect our schools or require expulsions, we are missing a vital piece. At this point, I think we have been lucky that additional consequences did not happen to our students, their families, or the community because of this. An expulsion or suspension from public school typically results in the student not being allowed on campus either. Sometimes this is well known and followed and sometimes this is disregarded. **If an expulsion occurs due to threats or the safety of the student and school body, we would hope that the no trespassing would be followed and enforced strictly.**

Unfortunately, we are dealing with an instance in our school where the expelled student is not following the order. It is not due to him or his family not knowing about it, or a simple oversight. We know that this on occasion will happen. Instead, this student has come to our campus first being removed by our SRO, then arrested for trespassing and resisting arrest, most recently he made it into a school and was again arrested. All offenses caused a lockdown of our students. The last being a “hard” lockdown. Fortunately, our SRO was on site and handled things very professionally, and took him into custody once backup officers arrived. The rumors, fear, and utter chaos this caused to our students, our staff, and our community are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

How many lockdowns must occur due to this one student for stronger consequences to take place? How many arrests on school property? How much fear? It is unthinkable that this student cannot be charged with more severe charges that send a message that he is in the wrong and must stop. He is terrorizing our students, staff, and community and receives a slap on the wrist, and is sent home only to do it again. His threatening demeanor on the last offense should be perceived by law enforcement as escalating.

This child is a troubled child, he desperately needs help, guidance, and support if he is ever going to be a productive member of our society. Our goal would be that every child is able to complete their education with us, graduate and become well rounded productive individuals that contribute to our society. Sadly, he is going to need some harsher punishments, some follow through with the juvenile detention center. The same detention center refused to take him in on the second offense.

Simply put, **we are asking you to revisit our laws to provide more protections to districts like ours in similar situations. SAS does not want to be a statistic on this ever growing problem that plagues America. By taking no action you will be encouraging this behavior and terror.** We can not accept that as a solution. If you would like to discuss further you can reach me at andy.jensen@spartaschools.org.

Sincerely,

Andy Jensen

Sparta School Board President

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