



MOLINE-COAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

1619 11TH AVENUE, MOLINE, IL 61265 309.743.1600 MOLINESCHOOLS.ORG

August 30, 2018

Dear Moline-Coal Valley Community,

I would like to provide you with an update on the recent incidents that occurred around Moline High School on August 29, 2018.

Yesterday afternoon, several fights occurred at Moline High School. School administrators acted swiftly to gain control and resolve the situations. Students involved in the fights were disciplined accordingly.

Following school dismissal, an additional disturbance occurred across from the high school on the Avenue of the Cities. This involved a large group of students, who continued to fight **off school property**. Moline Police responded and broke up the disturbance.

Around 5 pm, Moline Police again responded to a large disturbance involving approximately 50-60 high school aged students, who were fighting near the intersection of 25th Street & 16th Avenue. Two students were taken to the hospital for treatment of non-life threatening injuries as a result of the altercation.

While the investigation is ongoing and is in its early stages, police believe that two groups of students have been feuding the past several days, and the fights are a result of this feud. Police were aware and continue to be aware of social media reports regarding possible criminal activity between the two groups, which was threatened to occur today. Police investigated those reports and worked through the night to identify everyone involved and assess any ongoing threat. The police found no credible threat, but rather incorrect second-hand information.

In response to the recent events, heavy police presence was put in place at Moline High School today. Police officers were present both inside and outside for added security. In addition, police officers were present at schools around the district.

Late last evening, the district created a social media post about the incidents. The intent of this post was to advise parents of the additional police presence, which would be at the high school on Thursday. This, however, generated numerous comments by parents. This post was intended as a way to provide information, with additional communication provided today. Please note that in the event of an emergency or other critical information, parents will be notified through Skylert.

There have been many comments shared through social media channels regarding the school district's lack of notification to parents. We were not able to communicate the message prior to the start of the school day due to the amount of information we were gathering and the numerous

decisions which needed to be made. We apologize for the delay. The district, in conjunction with the Moline Police, did not feel that having students attend school today was a threat to their safety. If there had been a credible threat, appropriate action and notification would have been taken. Please know that the safety of our students is of utmost importance.

Moline High School students have been advised that any fighting, whether at school or on the way to or from school, will be punished to the fullest extent possible by both the school and the local law enforcement. Students who choose to fight will be immediately suspended, with a possibility of expulsion where appropriate. In addition, students will likely face misdemeanor battery or felony aggravated battery charges from the Moline Police Department if necessary. Those who participate by recording or encouraging fighting will also face school suspension, and will be prohibited from attending extra-curricular activities.

If students know of potential fights or violence, they are encouraged to report concerns to any staff member, MHS Police Liaison Detective Brownell, or anonymously through the P3 app.

Many parents chose to keep their children home today. As a parent, this is your prerogative. These absences are excused if called in by the parent.

Unfortunately, in the world in which we live today, we have to take every comment or potential threat seriously. We, along with the Moline Police Department, will continue to take every step possible to ensure all of our buildings are a safe and secure learning environment for students and their families.

Respectfully,

Lanty McGuire, Superintendent of Schools