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METTAWEE SCHOOL DISTRICT •• TACONIC AND GREEN REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT •• WINHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 14, 2023

Dear Flood Brook Families,

I am writing to follow up on Ms. Harlow's email sent on Friday and to share with you the work I have been doing over the past two days, as I know the school year is rapidly coming to an end. Hearing that a BB gun was brought to school on Friday was upsetting and concerning for many of you, as it was for me.

There are rumors and incomplete and inaccurate information circling our community which makes a difficult situation even more challenging. I spent significant time over the weekend and early this week meeting with people and learning all I can related to what transpired. In a situation such as this, it can be difficult to reassure you when there are details that I am not able to publicly provide. With this understanding, my inquiry is centering around three primary focus areas:

1. The student, their programming, and the incident itself.
2. Reviewing the processes and procedures at FBS and determining if any require adjustment moving forward to be as strong and comprehensive as possible.
3. Determining whether there is information learned that will inform system wide adjustments.

I will continue to review what happened for the remainder of this week and likely into next week. When I feel like I have a complete set of information, I will meet with Amy, Johanna and the VT School Safety Center to review what happened to inform our future planning.

At this point, I want to be clear that, while there was a BB gun brought to school in a backpack, there was no ammunition present, nor evidence of intent to do harm. Another student heard that a BB gun was in the student's backpack and reported it to an adult, which is exactly what we tell students to do.

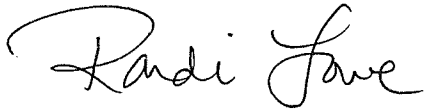
I started my days on Monday and Tuesday at FBS to check in with staff and review what occurred. Mr. Oliver was at the school as was Dr. Mary Hissong, one of our school psychologists, to provide support and guidance.

This letter was drafted early today and as I was prepared to send it I was made aware of an incident that occurred this morning and given the current heightened concerns, I thought it important to share the facts about what happened. Today, a small group of students found a food prep knife and one was using it in an inappropriate manner. This was addressed by the

administration and the affected students' parents/guardians were informed. While this was an isolated situation which did not impact on the greater school community, transparency was called for to limit the rumors and potential spread of misinformation. I want to be clear that there were no threats made or ill intent by anyone involved and no unauthorized weapons were brought to school.

In the upcoming weeks I will be looking for a few educators and parents to join your school leaders and me to partner and plan for a productive and positive start to the upcoming school year. If you are interested in participating, please let me know.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randi Lowe". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Randi" and the last name "Lowe" clearly distinguishable.

Randi Lowe, EdD
Superintendent