

Press Release: January 10, 2023

This correspondence provides an update on the recent allegations of misconduct concerning student behavior within the Boys Basketball program at Lanesville High School.

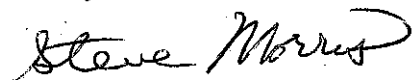
As previously stated, in late November the school was made aware of allegations concerning students. Immediately, the school contacted the Department of Child Services (DCS) and local law enforcement. Both agencies launched investigations, interviews and inquiries into these allegations and instructed the school to refrain from conducting its own investigation. All school employees and officials are fully cooperating with the criminal investigation.

During the criminal investigation, the school continued to request updates and remain engaged in the case. On December 28, 2022, the school received a copy of the investigative report from the Sheriff's Department and began to move forward with the disciplinary measures outlined in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct. As a result, the two accused individuals are permanently removed from the basketball program and are not present at the school or any school event. All individuals involved, the accused and the alleged victims, are juveniles. The students accused are entitled to the presumption of innocence under the U.S. and Indiana Constitutions. The alleged student victims are entitled to their privacy. Please respect their individual rights within this process. Speculation in the media or on social media does not protect those rights, nor does it help the situation. Please direct any questions regarding the criminal investigation to the Harrison County Prosecutor's Office or the Harrison County Sheriff's Department.

The school will continue to request updates from the sheriff's department as to any portions of the investigation that remain ongoing and will respond accordingly if new information is received. A written safety plan regarding the handling of this situation at school has been created and implemented.

As the school, school board and local agencies work through this situation, we continue to ask for your patience and understanding. Lanesville promotes and values a learning environment that is welcoming and comfortable for all students; unfortunately, this situation is tearing the fabric of the Lanesville School Community and Big Purple Nation. We will continue to strive for peace, comfort and compassion for our school community. Thank you for your support in the past and commitment to making Lanesville the best school possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "S" and a distinct "M".

Steve Morris

Interim Superintendent

Lanesville Community Schools