

Richmond Community Schools

35276 Division * Richmond, Michigan 48062 * (586) 727-3565 * www.richmond.k12.mi.us

Board of Education
Candess Cunningham
Deborah Michon
Angela Pacitto
Danielle Sutton
Sandra Fortuna
Kelly Oldani
Margaret Teltow

Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

**Richmond Early Childhood Learning Center
& Will L. Lee Elementary School**
68399 Forest
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Heidi Mangune, Principal
Michael Gibson, Dean of Students

Richmond Middle School
35250 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Jennifer Marella, Principal
Michael Woodberg, Dean of Students

Richmond High School
35320 Division
Richmond, Michigan 48062
Andrea Szabo, Principal
Becky Borwick, Dean of Students

January 3, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

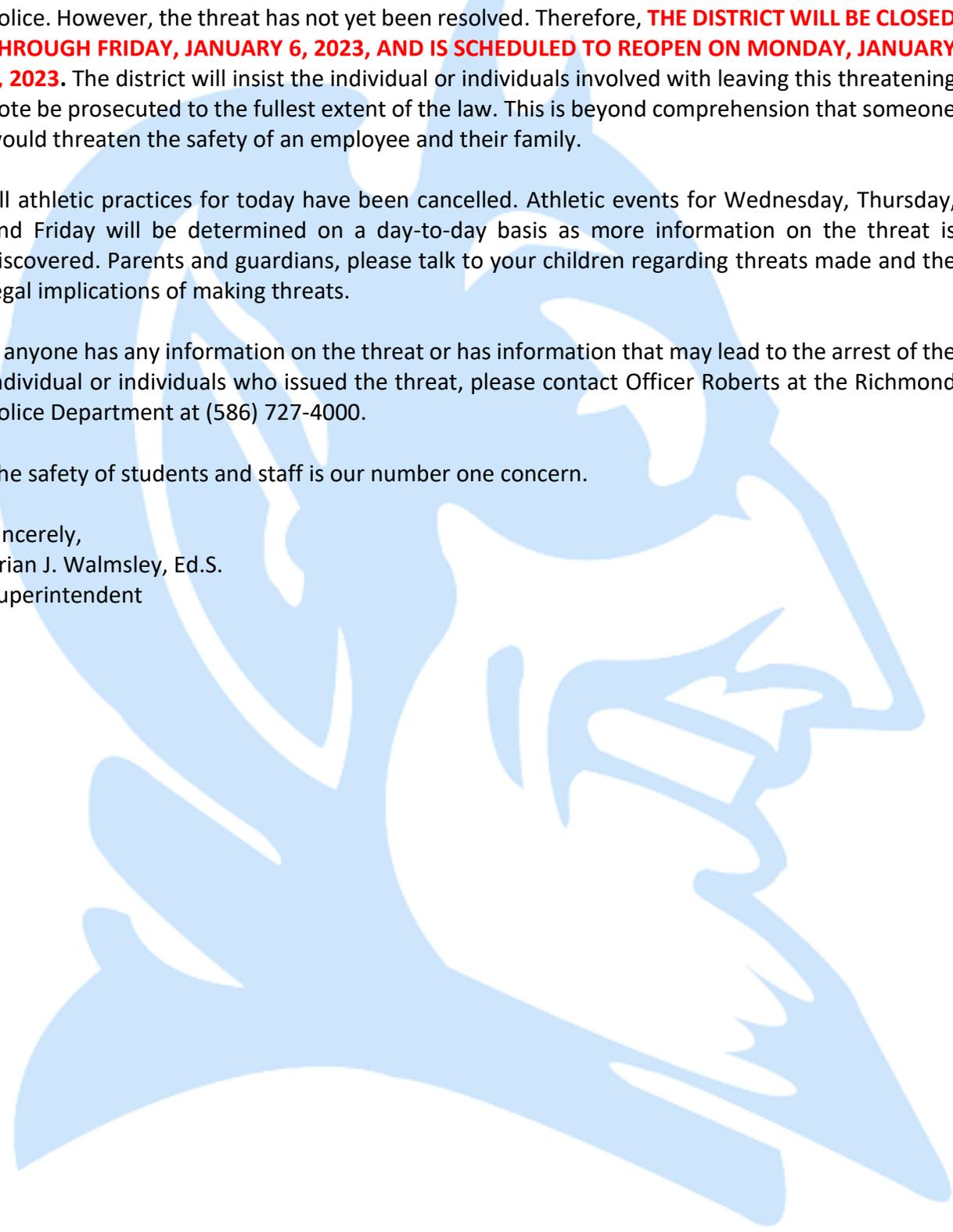
There is no secret districts across the State have vacancies due to the massive teacher shortage that has been building for years; and Richmond is no different. Some Richmond staff have chosen to fill vacancies in other districts resulting in new vacancies in our district.

Over the holiday break, my team has been busy interviewing and processing new hires to begin after the new year. In talking with union leadership and several building administrators over the break, and acknowledging not all vacant positions will be filled, I decided to cancel school today. The cancellation was to allow new hires and individuals moving positions time to organize and prepare appropriate lessons for students after the break. It was also to provide additional time for my administrative team to contact substitutes to fill vacancies.

The State of Michigan allows up to six (6) days (or equivalent hours) of scheduled pupil instruction that are not provided because of conditions not within the control of school authorities such as severe storms, fires, health conditions, and infrastructure issues. These days are counted towards the required 1,098 hours of pupil instruction. Often, these days are referred to as *Building Problem Days* or *Inclement Weather Days*.

A situation occurred at the beginning of the day that required the involvement of the Richmond Police Department. Shortly after 7:30am, members of my administrative team brought to my attention a written "death threat" that was discovered upon their return from the holiday break. The "death threat" note not only threatened the safety of an employee, but their spouse and children, and included personal information. The individual identified in the note has been notified.

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!



Immediately, the district went into lock down and the Richmond Police were called. The situation is an active investigation, and the district is fully cooperating with the police. The threatening note, security camera footage, and door access digital records have all been turned over to the police. However, the threat has not yet been resolved. Therefore, **THE DISTRICT WILL BE CLOSED THROUGH FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2023, AND IS SCHEDULED TO REOPEN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023.** The district will insist the individual or individuals involved with leaving this threatening note be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This is beyond comprehension that someone would threaten the safety of an employee and their family.

All athletic practices for today have been cancelled. Athletic events for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be determined on a day-to-day basis as more information on the threat is discovered. Parents and guardians, please talk to your children regarding threats made and the legal implications of making threats.

If anyone has any information on the threat or has information that may lead to the arrest of the individual or individuals who issued the threat, please contact Officer Roberts at the Richmond Police Department at (586) 727-4000.

The safety of students and staff is our number one concern.

Sincerely,
Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.
Superintendent

Guaranteed Learning for All Students!