



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Office of the Superintendent



September 27, 2024

Good Day Orange School District Staff and Families,

The Office of the Superintendent strives to provide information to families to keep all abreast. This morning at approximately 11:12 AM, the Orange Public Schools received a call from the Orange Police Department regarding a potential threat at Heywood Avenue School. To ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff, Principal Ms. Richele Woods immediately placed the school on lockdown in accordance with district safety protocols. The district safety team which included the Manager of Security, Manager of Building and Grounds, School Business Administrator, and Superintendent were present and provided supports to the school community.

We want to assure you that the health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We worked closely with law enforcement to assess the situation, and all necessary precautions were taken. At approximately 11:47 AM, after consultation with the Orange Police Department, Heywood Avenue School lifted the lockdown as it was determined the threat was not credible and did not exist. Further, the district provided counseling support services to the entire Heywood School Community throughout the course of the day.

In recent days, we have seen screen shots from social media from municipalities outside of Orange Township indicating threats to schools. As result, all district schools as well district take all potential threats seriously.

I would like to thank both the Orange Police Department and the district Safety Team for their support and timely response to the alleged threat. Further, I would like to thank our Heywood Avenue School staff for safeguarding our learners and one another.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work together to ensure the safety of our school community.

Educationally yours,

Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh, II

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

C: Ms. Richele Woods, Principal
Mr. Jason Ballard, School Business Administrator
Mr. Anthony Jackson, Manager of Security
Mr. Edwin Vasquez, Manager of Building and Grounds
Ms. Emily Shaltuper, Assistant Principal