



Navigator Upper Elementary
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Good afternoon Pirate families,

Both Navigator principal, Ruth Badalucco and I are writing this letter to not only our Navigator families, but to everyone within our PCS community as the information we are sharing is not only important to those families whose children attend Navigator Elementary, but is valuable to everyone as it involves safety, transparency, trust and cooperation.

Late this afternoon, we had a situation occur at Navigator during indoor lunch recess in which a parent who is considered to be a well-known, active and engaged volunteer during lunch/recess and who possesses a CPL (Concealed Pistol License) innocently forgot to leave his holstered gun in his vehicle prior to entering the building today and while engaging with students in the gym, the holster fell off his belt and landed on the floor. This parent, along with a few students realized what had occurred and notified Mr. Goodfellow who reported the incident immediately to Mrs. Badalucco as the parent placed the holster in his vehicle. Both Deputy Gwinn (PCS resource officer) and I were immediately contacted, with both of us responding to the situation.

Although this parent is feeling extremely remorseful, embarrassed and responsible for what has happened, it does not negate the seriousness of this and the potential for something more serious to occur, which we are extremely grateful did not. Please know that we fully respect an individuals right to carry a gun given they are appropriately licensed, but please know that it is illegal to carry a concealed weapon into a school building, regardless if a CPL is obtained, unless very specific permissions are granted, which generally involves retired law enforcement personnel. What happened today is one of the unfortunate examples of why it is so important for those who do choose to legally carry a gun to make sure it is properly secured in their vehicle or residence before entering a school building as accidents like this can happen as we learned today.

Given how quickly this event occurred and the immediate response from the parent involved and by Mrs. Badalucco, we knew there was no immediate threat and thus, did not put the school on lockdown. The students who were with this parent in the gym responded with great composure and responsibility and never felt they were in any danger.

Even though we understand this was a sincere accident, we are following through with the legal process as required by state statute, which consists of making a full police report that will be sent to the Livingston County Prosecutor's office. As we go through this process, this particular parent will not be permitted to volunteer at any PCS schools until further notice as we work through the legal process.

Here in Pinckney Community schools, we so value the inclusion of parents here at school as it is the most effective way to create a strong sense of trust, cooperation and transparency and we never want to lose this. But at the same time, we need to ensure that we work together in doing our part to keep our students and staff safe at all times. We understand that incidents like this can be unsettling as it has been for us, but at the same time, we hope that the trust we have built in communicating can help reassure that we do have your student's best interest at heart at all times.

Thank you for your support and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Rick Todd
PCS, Superintendent

Ruth Badalucco
Navigator Principal