



Dear Walton-Verona Stakeholders,

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation following the emergency situation that affected our community on October 8th. While these events are always unsettling, they serve as a critical test of our preparation and resolve.

I am profoundly thankful to report that our school and district administrators, teachers, and staff executed our established emergency protocols to perfection, prioritizing the safety and well-being of every student and colleagues. Their professionalism and calm adherence to procedure ensured that our response was swift, coordinated, and effective.

I recognize that the timeline of information shared by the district may have raised questions, and I want to provide clarity regarding our decision-making process during this rapidly evolving situation. Our priority throughout was not only safety but also ensuring we did not compromise the law enforcement effort. In our initial communication, we referenced the video evidence of the suspect that was concerning but ultimately inconclusive as to whether he was armed. It was vital that we shared what we knew while remaining factually accurate.

Similarly, when the suspect was apprehended and we shared the second communication confirming the arrest, the Boone County law enforcement had not yet located the weapons. This detail was crucial because the search was ongoing. We were in constant, direct collaboration with the Boone County Sheriff's Office to ensure that all public announcements did not inadvertently compromise or hamper their active search for the individual or the weapons, which remained a significant threat until secured.

Moving forward, please know that the Walton-Verona Independent School District is committed to a policy of transparency, but one guided by responsibility. We will not share information unless we are certain it is accurate and does not compromise the safety of our students or staff or interfere with ongoing law enforcement operations.

Thank you once again for your patience, cooperation, and trust. The continued support of our parents and community is what allows us to maintain the safest possible environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Matt Baker | Superintendent
Walton-Verona Independent Schools