

FALL RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"The Scholarship City"

417 Rock Street, Fall River, MA 02720

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D., Superintendent

Media Release

October 24, 2016

At approximately 9:30 a.m., several students came forward and showed Durfee High School's administration a screen shot of a firearm with a caption "Life at Durfee" which was circulating on social media. We immediately investigated and determined that there may be a student in possession of a firearm in school and notified the police. We, in conjunction with the police, continued the investigation and searched the building for the firearm from the photo.

During our investigation, it was determined that the student suspected of having the firearm in school had left school grounds and police were dispatched to the child's home. Fall River police arrested a Durfee High School student at his home and confiscated a BB gun in his possession which was determined to be the gun in the photo. The lockdown was lifted and parents were allowed to dismiss their children at their discretion. School continued as scheduled for students who remained in the building.

We will enforce the Fall River Public Schools Code of Conduct to its fullest extent as weapons are illegal and have no place in our schools.

Beginning tomorrow morning, students and staff will only be allowed to enter the building through the Main Entrance until further notice. Students should also be aware that it will be required that ID's be worn at all times and that metal detectors and wands will be used upon entering the building. Increased police presence will also be seen in the school. We will continue to be vigilant and will not tolerate behavior that compromises the safety of our students and staff.

We thank those students who had the courage to come forth and alert us of this potential danger which in turn allowed us to take swift action. We also want to thank the efforts of our faculty, staff, the FRPD, and parents for acting professionally and calmly during this difficult event.

As a school community, we are so much better than the unsafe behavior demonstrated by some students. We look forward to a safe return to our routine tomorrow.

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