



Grand County School District
EACH STUDENT, EVERY DAY.

Taryn Kay, Superintendent
Melissa Byrd, Board President
Kathy Williams, Board Member
Britnie Ellis, Board Member
Steven Kennedy, Board Member
Ariel Atkins, Board Member
Pat Wilson, Business Administrator

Date: October 15, 2021

To: Staff, Parents, Community Members

The purpose of this communication is to provide the GCSD staff, GCSD parents, and the public with detailed information regarding the 19 year old male who posed as a GCSD student this week.

On Tuesday, Oct. 12, the young man who is 19, but could easily pass as 14, entered the Grand County High School before school started when the front doors were unlocked and entered the library. He mingled there with other students and left through the front doors before school started. Then, at 8:35, he re-entered the high school office with two other students. The attendance secretary didn't recognize him and asked him if he was a GCHS student. He said he was. She asked his name and he gave it. At that point one of the other students said that he wasn't a student at GCHS. The high school counselor spoke to the young man and the young man left GCHS.

After he left the high school he walked to the MLH Middle School and was playing on the playground equipment. A staff member saw him and escorted him to the office. In the office he said he was hungry and the office staff fed him. The young man said he was 14 and would like to go to school there. The office staff thought he was a high school student so they called the high school and were told what had happened there earlier. The middle school principal then called the police and the police indicated they knew who the young man was. Law enforcement arrived and took him into custody.

On Wednesday, Oct. 13, in the afternoon (5th period), the young man saw a PE class outside running on the track and started running with them. The PE teacher told him he couldn't stay with the class and asked him to leave. The young man left. Next, that same afternoon, the young man entered the high school with some other students before 6th hour (last class of the day) and went with them to one of their classes. The teacher thought he was a new student. He stayed through that class and exited the high school at the end of school with the other students. The young man did not threaten any students during his visits to either school, however, he did follow two sisters home and threatened them at their home. No information came to either the high school or district administration about the young man's time on the high school campus on Wednesday, or the threats made to the two sisters until Thursday morning, Oct. 14. When district administration received the information, the Superintendent immediately contacted law enforcement. Law enforcement verified that the young man had threatened the sisters at their home, and that the student had been at the high school Wednesday afternoon. There was an HMK field trip that was already at the YGP that morning and an assembly at the high school for 6-8 grade students scheduled for 9:00. The Superintendent requested that law enforcement be at the high school and middle school to ensure the safety of the students walking from the middle school, bussing from HMK, and already at the YGP. Law enforcement agreed that it would be safe for the events to continue and arrived on site to ensure the safety of GCSD students.

Next, law enforcement contacted GCSD at 9:30 that same morning (14th) and provided information that the young man was in custody. District administration then spent the rest of the day investigating the situation that occurred on Wednesday at the high school. Once the information was gathered, GCSD sent communication to parents informing them there had been an incident on Wednesday at the high school and earlier in the week at the middle school and high school.

Obviously GCSD administration is concerned that a student was able to attend a high school class posing as a GCHS student. A GCHS staff meeting was held this morning (Friday the 15th) before school to determine what went wrong and what needs to be done to ensure a similar situation doesn't happen again. The GCHS leadership team and accreditation committees are identifying all processes and procedures that were lacking, changing them where appropriate, and then training all staff to ensure knowledge and compliance. GCSD administration and staff will use this unfortunate situation to improve and be better, and ensure that nothing like this happens again.

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to Superintendent Kay via email at kayt@grandschools.org, or phone at 259-5317.