Smithtown Central School District
26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(631) 382-2006

November 6, 2026

Dear Smithtown School Community,

We want to talk openly about what happened at High School West, because we know how deeply it has affected our families, students, and staff. Please know that we are not just moving past this; we are truly reflecting on it every day. Your trust is everything to us, and we take our responsibility to protect your children and our team completely to heart. We are actively reviewing all of our safety practices and security measures right now, because you deserve more than just a written commitment to safety—you deserve to know the work that is involved in doing all we can to ensure that safety. This work will help us identify where improvements can be made and what more we can do to protect our students and staff.

As was stated in Dr. Secaur's message to you on October 29, we know families want clear answers and reassurance that their children are safe. With this in mind, we have created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. Within this document are answers to common questions regarding this incident and the district's response. Should there be additional questions, you can submit them via this email address **hsw-weapon-incident@smithtown.k12.ny.us**. We will take these requests into consideration and add questions or provide additional context to existing answers when warranted. This FAQ document can be accessed on our website **HERE** and will remain active until further notice.

Our **District-Wide Safety Plan** (which is required by law), includes the requirement for a Board of Education appointed District-Wide Safety Team. In accordance with our plan, this team is convening to conduct a full investigation of this incident. This team is composed of many stakeholders including, but not limited to:

- A Board of Education Trustee
- Central Office Administrators
- Building Level Administrators
- Representatives from Covert Security, our outside school security firm
- District Security Staff
- PTA Representative
- additionally, Law Enforcement Personnel often attend

The District-Wide Safety Team has many responsibilities. As it relates to this incident, it is important to understand that the District-Wide Safety Plan includes the following safety procedures and requirements:

- *The District-Wide Safety Team will act as a Threat Assessment Team with the responsibility to assess the vulnerability of the District to violence and recommend to the District Superintendent and Board preventive actions that they feel are necessary.*
- *In the aftermath of an incident, the District-Wide Safety Team is responsible for auditing the District-Wide Safety Plan to determine its success in violence prevention. Each incident will be reported to and evaluated by the District-Wide Safety Team (Threat Assessment Team). Furthermore, after the incident has occurred the Threat Assessment Team will conduct a detailed investigation. It is the purpose of the Team to focus on facts that may prevent recurrence, not find fault. The Team conducting the investigation will:*

    - *Collect facts on how the incident occurred.*
    - *Record information.*
    - *Identify contributing causes.*
    - *Recommend corrective action.*
    - *Encourage appropriate follow-up.*
    - *Consider changes in controls, policy and procedures.*

Additionally, the district intends to give a presentation on this topic at the November 17 Board of Education Meeting. During this presentation, we will outline key events related to the incident and our response, provide an overview regarding the district's commitment to school security, and discuss the role that the District-Wide Safety Team will play in the near and long term.

In closing, please know that our commitment to provide a safe and secure learning environment is unwavering and we will continue to advance our work in this area. We thank you for your continued partnership, trust, and support.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed. D. Superintendent	Matthew Gribbin BOE President	Brandon Solomon BOE Vice President	Emily Cianci BOE Trustee
Dana Fritch BOE Trustee	Bernadette Ackerman BOE Trustee	Theresa Donohue BOE Trustee	Thomas Minnigan BOE Trustee