



WAYLAND UNION SCHOOLS

H O M E O F T H E W I L D C A T S

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Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Dear Wayland Union Schools Families and Staff,

On Monday, September 29, 2021, we sent a communication to our High School Families and Staff regarding a situation at our Homecoming Dance on Saturday, September 25, 2021. This letter is to provide an update to our full school community.

There have been allegations that something was put into the soft drinks and/or water at the Homecoming Dance causing student illness. Only pre-packaged food was served at the dance. We know of two students who went to the hospital for emergency care. One of the two went to the hospital via ambulance. Several other students reported feeling unwell. Drinks were removed as soon as our staff members learned of several students feeling sick and the possibility of contamination. Due to the ongoing thorough investigation, symptoms experienced and specific details can not be shared at this time.

Following our typical procedures, a Wayland City Police Officer was on-site during the entire dance. Another officer was intermittently present. The police officers took the beverages into their custody for further investigation and testing. Results of the testing are not yet available. School district officials have reviewed video footage and were unable to find evidence of anyone tampering with the drinks. As a precautionary measure, we are reviewing our methods of serving drinks at school dances and events.

We need your help in this thorough investigation. A cash reward is being offered by the Allegan County Silent Observer program for anyone who provides information which leads to the identification and arrest of a suspect(s) who illegally caused students to ingest drugs or any substance that caused the illness. If you have information which can help us find answers or if your student(s) were ill during or after the dance, please reach out. Please call Silent Observer at 1-855-SILENT-0 and/or the Wayland Police Department at (269) 792-9366. Thank you, in advance, to anyone who comes forward to help solve this investigation.

Wayland Union Schools will continue to work collaboratively with the Wayland City Police Department as they continue their investigation. I am thankful to our High School Administrators, District Safety Officer, Staff Members, and Police Officers who took immediate action to ensure the safety of our students. Additional communication will be sent when we have more information.

In partnership,



Dr. Christina Hinds