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Jennifer Davie Melissa Simpson Kelly Termath

October 26, 2023

Dear Sanford School Community,

I am aware of the horrible events in Lewiston last evening. There are no words that accurately describe the dismay I feel as I follow the news from Lewiston over the past 12 hours. The senseless and intentional violence targeting members of that community is unimaginable. As a school district, our hearts go out to the victims, their families, and the entire Lewiston community.

I have been in contact with local and state law enforcement, the Maine Department of Education, and superintendents in York and Cumberland counties overnight. In times like these, it is only natural for our students and staff to feel shaken and concerned for their own safety. While the shooting did not occur in our schools, we recognize it still impacts our school community deeply.

While there is no current “shelter in place” order for Sanford and local law enforcement doesn’t assess any current, threat to our community, **I have made the decision to close schools on Thursday, October 26th out of an abundance of caution. There will be no school for students or staff.**

The Sanford community is strong and we will continue to support one another as necessary. We will continue to assess existing conditions throughout the course of the day today to inform plans for school on Friday. Additional communications and resources will also be forthcoming later today.

Thank you for your support.

Matt Nelson
Superintendent of Schools