FARWELL AREA SCHOOLS
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February 19, 2026

Dear Farwell Area Schools Families and Staff,

As you know, there have been upsetting situations at our schools recently. There have also been newspaper reports and a great deal of social media discussion that offer versions of these situations that are not completely accurate. I am writing this letter in an attempt to clarify some information for you.

On February 3, 2026, a teacher overheard two students talking about a text message that involved a threat. The teacher immediately reported it to administration. The school resource officer and the high school student and family liaison intervened to ensure that there was no immediate danger. They discovered a text thread from three weeks prior that mentioned a threat against some students. The students that participated in the conversation were immediately removed from school. The Middle School threat assessment team followed the district approved Michigan Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (Mi-BTAM) protocol to assess the severity of the threat and to determine the next steps. Middle School Principal, Mrs. Cairnduff, communicated with the parents of all four students involved and made discipline referrals to the superintendent for the two students who generated the threats. From there, a referral to the board of education was completed. At their February 16, 2026 meeting, the board took action on the referrals.

On February 17, 2026, a student brought a box cutter and shared it with friends. A student reported the box cutter to a SPARKS employee who quickly intervened. Safety protocols were put in place and the Michigan Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (Mi-BTAM) protocol was followed.

As referenced above, the district, along with the other Clare-Gladwin RESD schools, has adopted the Michigan Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (Mi-BTAM) protocol. It is an evidence-based and systematic process to identify, inquire, assess, and manage potential threats. This process is taken very seriously. It is not a simple process and does take time to do it effectively. If it seems as if nothing has been done or that information has not been shared, it may be that the process is still being followed. Please know that it is our number one priority to keep students and staff safe at school.

As an interim superintendent, there is still a great deal for me to learn. Please know that I will be diligent in my efforts to learn quickly and be thorough in my efforts to communicate clearly and report out important information. My goal is to make improvements, clarify processes and protocols, and keep Farwell Area Schools safe, inviting, and the place that you want your students to attend. I hope that you will be willing to give me grace and support as I move forward in this role.

I encourage you to reach out to the school directly with questions or concerns. If there is something that needs clarity, please contact one of our offices. The administration, teachers, and staff are here to support not only your student, but also you as the family. I implore you to continue talking to your student about choosing their words carefully, making safe and healthy choices, and reporting anything suspicious, threatening, or inappropriate to a trusted adult. It takes everyone working together to make positive change and to ensure that everyone is safe at school.

Please do not hesitate to contact me.

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