



**Dolores School District RE-4A**

***Scott Cooper, Superintendent***

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April 10, 2014

Attention: Parents, Students, and Community Members

Yesterday, Dolores Schools went into lockdown. A threat was discovered on Facebook and reported to the school by an Assistant Principal in Texas. As we began to investigate whether there was a direct threat to the school or any connection to the school the Montezuma Sheriff's office also began an investigation. Working collaboratively, we discovered the individual in question was linked to a residence within a mile and a half of the school. At that point the Montezuma Sheriffs Department issued a lockdown for Dolores Schools. Cortez and Dove Creek were also put in lockout until more information was available. Dolores Schools issued an auto-dialer call to inform parents of the situation.

There was a wonderful interagency response by the Bureau of Land Management, Division of Wildlife, Colorado State Patrol, Montezuma Sheriff's Office, La Plata County Sheriff's Office and the Durango Police Department. The school was secured in under one minute. The buildings were checked, a perimeter was established and roadblocks set up. It was determined that the individual in question was in Durango. Durango High School was also put in lockdown. The Durango Police Department was able to contact the person and determine that there was no threat to the students at Dolores Schools or any of our neighboring districts. Once that was determined, the lockdowns were lifted.

The actions of the Dolores staff, students, and all of the responding law enforcement personnel should be commended. Our students were safe and secure. We did identify a couple of areas that we need to address. We had several students and parents texting during the lockdown. Staff and students cannot answer their phones during a lock down. If there had been a threat on campus, cell phones may have given away the location of our students and jeopardized their safety. From this point forward, during a lockdown, students will be asked to turn off their phones and hand them to the teacher. We do our best to communicate with parents through our auto-dialer and the regional NIXLE calling service. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Brandon Thurston-Secondary Principal Jimmie Lankford-Assistant Principal