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## **CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

March 24, 2016

Melvin L. Hawkins, *Superintendent*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you are now aware, Camden County Sheriff's office received two telephone threats in the late evening of Wednesday, March 23, 2016. Both of these calls threatened to "blow up" and "shoot up" Grandy Primary School on Monday, March 28, 2016. As with any other threatening call or notice, this is taken seriously by school staff and local law enforcement.

During the early morning hours and during the day, law enforcement has been present on the school campus. There has been a call made to have a bomb sniffing K-9 check out the elementary schools. There have been additional measures taking place to upgrade student, staff and visitor safety including obtaining pricing to add a buzz-in system for the entrance doors. It should be known that there are surveillance cameras at each campus that see and record practically every movement on our campuses. This is true for each of our buses as well.

Drills have been conducted beyond what is required. If you receive the *Bear Tracks* from Grandy Primary School, you noticed information on behavioral expectations during these drills. This is to help guide you in your conversation with your child.

Regardless of the measures that are put into place at the school, there are still people out there who do and will continue to do bad things. Law enforcement at all levels is working on this matter; however, even they run into some roadblocks in their investigation. I ask each of you to keep your ears and eyes open and if you receive any information, you share it with a school administrator or law enforcement official immediately.

Threats to school are not isolated to Camden County. There have been too many and on too many schools in our area. I am encouraged by the level of interest from community members to assist in raising funds and awareness to increase the safety and security measures for our schools. I hope to share more in the near future as these small conversations transition into action.

In closing, I want to thank you for your patience and understanding during this frustrating time. I also hope law enforcement will receive the information they need so they can apprehend the person or persons responsible for making these calls.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melvin L. Hawkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Melvin L. Hawkins  
Superintendent

MLH

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Camden County Public Schools, in partnership with home and community, will educate all to be productive citizens in an ever-changing global society.*