Shelter-in-Place at Gateway Regional

Huntington – The Gateway Regional complex—consisting of the middle school, junior high school and senior high school—called a “Shelter in Place” at approximately 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 8.

A student reported seeing what she believed might be a weapon in another student’s locker, to her teacher. The teacher notified the office and Principal Jason Finnie immediately called a Shelter in Place.

Chief Robert Garriepy, of the Huntington Police Department responded along with personnel from the Massachusetts State Police and the Worthington Police Department.

All student lockers in that section of the building were searched. Once the suspected student was identified, a second search was conducted revealing a piece of welding that had been mistaken for a weapon.

The shelter-in-place was released at about 10:45 a.m. at the conclusion of the investigation.

“Despite the disruption to the school day, I applaud the student who reported seeing what she thought was a weapon,” said Jason Finnie, in a call to district parents afterwards.

Gateway has had a set of protocols in place for dealing with such incidents for many years, and staff and students are well practiced in those procedures.

As always, parents are reminded to not call or come to the school in an emergency because this could tie up phone lines or hamper emergency responders. The school will do an all-call to notify parents as soon as they are able.

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