

Press Release RE: cybercrime investigation

Date: 9/14/23

Contact: Steve Doerr, Superintendent, 517-764-2090

The district administration has been informed by Blackman-Leoni Public Safety that a night shift custodian is in police custody. The reason for his arrest was suspicion of a very serious cybercrime. Blackman-Leoni Public Safety informed district officials that no district students are connected to the investigation and that there is no evidence that staff or student safety has ever been in question. This is an ongoing investigation and we expect more information will be available in the coming days and weeks from BLPS as their investigation is ongoing.

This employee has been placed on leave, consistent with district policies and state statute. The school district has an obligation to perform a separate investigation regarding the employee's due process rights. We are working closely with BLPS to review facts of this matter in a way that does not compromise their legal investigation. Our district is committed to the safety of our students and we always expect all staff to adhere to the highest ethical practices and conduct. We will not tolerate behaviors that compromise the safety of our children.

"This news of arrest is a shock to the school and to our district," said Superintendent Steve Doerr. "Tuesday was a difficult day for our students, parents and community. At the request of law enforcement, we shifted to a half-day schedule to support their investigation. I appreciate the efforts of the East Jackson teachers and staff, as well as the flexibility of the families in our community as we coordinated with law enforcement."

"East Jackson is a caring community school and our staff will continue their daily efforts to focus on our students' success," Doerr said. "Today, we are focused on our educational mission of serving our students. One of the difficult things about these situations is that information is often limited due to the need for confidentiality during law enforcement's investigation." More information will likely come through announcements made by Blackman-Leoni Public Safety. Blackman-Leoni DPS is asking anyone who may have any further information to please contact Detective Jeremiah Wheeler at 517-788-4223.