Norwalk Public Schools
Report of Bullying Form/Investigation Summary

School: Norwalk High School
Date: February 28, 2018

Location(s): In school, and social media

Reporter Information:

Anonymous student report: __________
Staff Member report: __________ Name: ____________________________
Parent/guardian report: X Name: Ms. Desmond
Student report: __________ Name: ____________________________

Student Reported as Committing Act: Not identified. Posts are on social media.

Student Reported as Victim: Owen Lynch

Description of Alleged Act(s): Parent alleges that her son, Owen, has been a victim of bullying on February 20 and 21.

Time and Place: Elementary, middle, and high schools

Names of Potential Witnesses: Ms. Desmond, Owen Lynch, Carlos Navarro, Navad Zuillen

For Staff Use Only:

Action of Reporter: See Attachment

Administrative Investigation Notes (use separate sheet if necessary):

See Attachment

Bullying Verified? History: No X Cyber: Yes X

Remedial Action(s) Taken: ____________________________

See Attachment
Norwalk Public Schools
Report of Bullying Form/Investigation Summary
(continued)

If Bullying Verified, Report Sent to Parents of Students?

Parents’ Names: Ms. Desmond
Date Sent: 3/1/18

Parents’ Names: ________________________
Date Sent: ________________________

Parents’ Names: ________________________
Date Sent: ________________________

Parents’ Names: ________________________
Date Sent: ________________________

(Attach bullying complaint, witness statements, and notification to parents of students involved if bullying is verified)
Parent, Ms. Desmond, alleges that her son, Owen Lynch, has been a victim of bullying in elementary, middle, and high schools. The Norwalk High School (NHS) principal investigated Ms. Desmond’s allegation of a) a history of bullying and b) current cyberbullying.

On Wednesday, February 21, in a phone conversation with the principal, Ms. Desmond noted,

“People are messaging him [the student, Owen]. He’s being bullied.”

When the principal asked whether the parent has or is able to provide these messages or any messages or comments, Ms. Desmond replied,

“He [Owen] doesn’t have a phone.”

When the principal asked how students are messaging the student, the parent responded,

“It’s the comments on social media about him [Owen].”

The principal asked, “Have you reported anything to us about bullying?” Ms. Desmond replied,

“No, but he’s been bullied since 3rd grade and the district has spent a lot of money outplacing him.”

The principal asked, “Is it ok for Ms. Olson and our SRO to come to your house to speak with Owen this morning?” Parent responded,

“Yes, but I won’t be here. Owen’s asleep right now. I have to go to Bridgeport. My other son was arrested Monday night.”

1) The NHS Safe School Climate Specialist and the NHS principal reviewed available social media posts (See attachments 1 and 2).

2) Ms. Olson, school social worker, NHS Resource Officer Gay, and Officer Hollister visited Owen Lynch’s home on Wednesday morning, February 21. Ms. Olson conducted a risk assessment and developed a safety plan (See attachment 3).

3) The Safe School Climate Specialist identified one NHS student, Carlos Navarro, who received an electronic message/image. Carlos states he received the message/image (attachment 1) from a student at Brien McMahon High School (See Carlos’s statement, attachment 4). The NHS principal contacted the principal of Brien McMahon High School, who identified and interviewed the sender, Nayad Zuillen. Nayad related to the McMahon principal that she received the electronic message/image from another student but is unaware of the creator of the original electronic message/image (See McMahon students’ statements, attachment 5).

4) The NHS Safe School Climate Specialist and the NHS principal spoke with the principal of Nathan Hale Middle School and reviewed Owen’s permanent record. The NHS principal also spoke with the Nathan Hale assistant principal, a counselor at Nathan Hale, and the principal of Marvin Elementary School. The Safe School Climate Specialist, the NHS principal, the NHS department chair for special education, and the NPS assistant director of specialized learning and student services met on Monday, February 26, and reviewed Owen’s complete IEP record.

5) The Safe School Climate Specialist and the NHS principal conducted grade-level assemblies on Wednesday, February 21, reviewing the school’s safety protocols, counseling resources, and made students aware of the definition of bullying/cyberbullying and related consequences.
6) The principal spoke with Lt. Roncinske and Officer Gay, providing pictures of available social media posts. As of February 28, Ms. Desmond had not filed a police report.

7) The principal spoke with Ms. Desmond on Friday, February 23. Ms. Desmond agreed to come to school with Owen Monday morning, February 26, after she delivered her daughters to elementary school. Ms. Desmond and Owen did not come to NHS on Monday, February 26.

8) In a February 26, email, Ms. Desmond made a request for an IEP meeting.

Our investigation has concluded that the allegation of a history of bullying in elementary and middle schools in Norwalk Public Schools is not verified. There are no written or oral reports of any repeated or individual acts of (or acts with the intention to) intimidate, ridicule, or harass the student. We have determined that some social media posts do meet the Norwalk Public Schools’ definition of cyberbullying.

Remedial Action Taken:

Risk Assessment completed on February 22

Safety plan developed for reentry on February 23

Safety plan mailed to parent

Continued counseling support provided by social worker at student’s home

Referral for community-based mental health services

IEP meeting scheduled for March 7, 2018
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 11:05:35 AM
To: Roseann Fazzino
Subject:

livingwithriyah me as fuck.
View 1 comment
1 DAY AGO

stunnagirljaz

he's the one who brought the gun

Yeo The high got some crazy ass weirdos

This the nigga who was at the high he look like he on some bs nigga look sus 25/8

Liked by burlyheadedbyra, dianethegoods_and 10 others
Heatherose Florian
Follow  February 20

My son was question and now people are going around calling him a school shooter he's being harassed and bullied I will be at the school first thing in the morning it better be dealt with parents who are reading this check your children social media because this is not funny this clearly is bullying

Like

Comment

Sandy Brown Sophia Athanasoulis Aponte
nope. They just said something happened and they are investigating. I wish they would have! But you have 10 Min to get them in and out, what can you really say?

16h · Like · Reply

Melissa Perissandis Sophia, did we really think it would have been different? Now this child has a target on him and students are bullying him. What will the district do, to make this right for this boy again?? To enable him to get his FAPE??

16h · Like · Reply

Sophia Athanasoulis Aponte thx for letting me know Sandy. I am very sad. I really had hope

Write a comment...
Stayci J. Mallozzi: The story I heard is two kids were taken into custody & a gun was found. Backpacks will be left at the school. They are in good hands. Thank the Lord for the student who called it in!

Bob Duff: No one was arrested and no guns were found according to police.

Elaine Curran: Didn't hear of any arrests or guns found. I wish people wouldn't say things unless they are SURE it's true.

Bob Duff: My statement above is still accurate.

Stayci J. Mallozzi: The names are Owen, Lynch & Ernesto.

Elaine Curran: Bob Duff, you are always accurate. You get the info from the correct sources (in this case, the police).

Bob Duff: Elaine Curran, thank you.

Stayci J. Mallozzi: Sure. Don't fool yourselves or others. Facts are hidden everyday so society can feel safe & cozy. The most important thing is that no one was hurt & we should thank the Lord & those who were there keeping our young adults safe. Sure, especially the kid in the bathroom who reported over hearing it. If you hear/see something, say something. That's what we teach the next generation!

Bob Duff: Kids are being dismissed early by house. If they drive...
NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL

23 CALVIN MURPHY DRIVE
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851-5597
TEL: (203) 838-4481
FAX: (203) 899-2815

Risk Assessment
Re: Owen Lynch
Date: February 22, 2018
Reporter: Rondi Olson School Social Worker

On February 21, 2018, a risk assessment was completed with Owen Lynch following a report to Central Office that Owen had made comments on social media that he was going to harm himself.

Student was not in school on February 21, 2018. A phone call was placed to Mrs. Florian, mother of Owen by Rondi Olson, School Social Worker to arrange a home visit to complete a risk assessment. Mrs. Florian advised Mrs. Olson that Owen had been up all night and was very upset over comments made on social media. Ms. Florian advised Mrs. Olson that Owen was not coming to school. Mrs. Olson asked if she could make a home visit to speak to Owen and Ms. Florian stated that she would not be home and granted permission to make the home visit and speak to Owen. The Student Resource Officer (SRO) Elizabeth Gay met Mrs. Olson at the home along with another female officer.

At approximately 10:06, I arrived at the home along with the SRO. I knocked and Owen opened the door. Owen had been told by his mother that I was coming so he was expecting me and he was awake and ready. When we entered the home, he was alone. I asked him if he felt safe home alone and he said he did. He was dressed in causal sweats. I assured Owen that the police officers were not at his home on any investigative matter, only as a matter of protection because another adult should be present while I talked to him. He seemed to accept that explanation.

I have known Owen since he was in third grade at Marvin Elementary School. I worked with him in third, fourth and fifth grade. Owen told me he was never coming back to that school and he was angry that he was being falsely accused of being the "school shooter" in social
media. I asked him to explain what had happened to him. He said that a "Shelter in Place" was called at Norwalk High School and the next thing he knew, "these guys" came to his classroom, asked him to walk out. He further told me that his backpack was searched, he was asked some questions and was allowed to return to class. I asked him if he was ever handcuffed or arrested. He denied that. He stated that he is certain that he will be the target of bullying. Owen stated that he has experienced a lot of bullying in the past. He further stated that at one time he was diagnosed with PTSD in seventh grade due to bullying. When he described his feelings of social isolation and being the target of alleged bullying, he began to cry during our conversation. He asked, "why am I always being picked? Things were just starting to get better for me. Now it will be even worse." He said, "I never wanted to hurt people. I am a nice guy. I just want to help people and where would I get a gun anyway? Who would sell me a gun?"

We discussed that because many students were on their cell phones during the Shelter in Place and that is when the rumors might have started. I asked what would he think would have happened if he had been in a similar situation with another student and he agreed that the rumors would have probably spread about that student. I asked how he thought we could make the situation better. He said he was not coming back to NHS. In an attempt to problem solve, we discussed possible options.

Owen stated that his only choice was to return to NHS. As an elementary student Owen stated that he struggled both academically and socially. We discussed that since coming to high school, he thought things were getting better and he has become quite focused and has definite future plans which includes ROTC. Owen stated that he would return to school on Monday. He felt he needed time for the rumors on social media to quiet down. He already has several absences for the year and stated concern about his attendance. We discussed a safety plan. I asked him the names of his best friends. We agreed to meet in my office first thing Monday morning, with his three friends.

Counseling goals will focus on activities to restore his reputation and help him ignore the bullying he may receive. I will continue to see him on a weekly basis and additionally, as needed. He will be allowed to go to the room 317C voluntarily to "cool off" and to speak to Mr. Migliaro, the security officer. Owen will be allowed to see his guidance counselor on an as needed basis. We will monitor this plan to assure that Owen is self-monitoring and not using this non-contingent break as a mean of escape from classwork. The safety plan will be prepared in writing under separate cover and will require signatures of the student, administration, teachers and parent.

Risk assessment: On the matter of self-harm, I asked Owen if he had considered or threatened to harm himself. He looked at me with surprise and said he would never consider harming himself over this. I rephrased the questions several ways and he always adamantly denied any thoughts of self-harm or suicide. When I asked him if he ever had those thoughts, who would he tell and he
said his mother or his friend Andrew. I asked would he be upset if Andrew told anyone and he said he would understand if he did.

I asked Owen if he was a member of the Student Based Health Center. He said he had never returned the form although he stated that he had given his mother the form in the past. I asked him if he would consider going to Youth Services Bureau, which is a service for teens only and which is free at City Hall. He lives only about three or four blocks from City Hall. He said he would definitely consider going and when I returned to school, I emailed him the phone number.

I returned to school and debriefed the principal and the assistant principal.

Impressions:
Owen denied thoughts of self-harm. He did not have a plan for self-harm. At this time Owen does not appear to be at risk of self-harm.

Recommendations:
1. Develop a written safety plan and a re-entry plan to include a meeting with the student, parent and administration
2. Continue counseling with school social worker
3. Discuss and confirm community based mental health supports with parent. Obtain written consents from parent to consult with mental health professionals treating Owen.

____________________ (signature)
Social Worker
Date ___________________
SAFETY PLAN FOR OWEN LYNCH FOR RE-ENTRY TO NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL

1. Owen and the three friends he has designated will meet in the social workers office at 7:30 on his return to school.
2. A specific plan will be developed to deal with possible bullying situations and to include agreement and signatures of the involved parties: principal, assistant principal, social worker, guidance counselor, security guards, parent and student.
3. Owen will be informed of the plan to allow him to self-monitor and come to see the social worker, his guidance counselor or the security officer in Room 317C as needed. The security staff will be notified of this plan. His use of these "cooling off services" will be monitored for the number of times needed and the benefit to Owen.
4. Owen will continue to be seen by the social worker on a weekly basis and the social worker will monitor his situation and progress.
5. Owen has been asked not to respond to any negative posts on social media and to report such posts to trusted person in the school.
6. The social worker will monitor if Owen follows up and attends an outside counseling program. Social worker will ask for parent's permission to contact the outside counselor so that the school and the counselor can work in conjunction.

Signed by:

Owen Lynch_(student)__________________________________________

Reginald Roberts-(principal)____________________________________

Carol Marinaccio-(assistant principal)____________________________

Rondi Olson-(social worker)______________________________________

Yvonne Berrios-(guidance counselor)______________________________
"My friend [redacted] who attends Brien McMahon High School had sent me a picture of Owen Lynch. She told me how it was wrong of what people were doing to him. She did not send the picture for any gossip reason it was only to show me what was going on, the picture was not even hers, so she is not the source of the photo. When I came to school I had shown it to one of my teachers, Mrs. Fazzino just so that the school can be aware of the gossip, and I let her handle it from there. I no longer have the photo as it is not in my interest to keep it.
So me and [redacted] saw the picture and he wanted to have the picture. So we saw it on Snapchat off a boy who goes to Norwalk High and he took a picture of it off my phone. He told me the other day it was to report the picture, but it wasn't the first time I saw that picture. Many people screen shoted it and have been reposting it but I never posted it, or Carlos never posted it. We left the situation alone.
I saw a post on February 20, 2015, a post about a boy and what he said to or what he was making. And everyone was posting the, screen shots and claiming it. I think anything of it so I posted it. In, I posted a picture and the caption was: "Everything in the world is crazy and it is everywhere is falling apart. This is so sad." I didn't think it should be wrong to post because it is a situation that everyone is talking about. I do regret seeing it and I'm sorry, I wouldn't want this happening to me.