

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

AT&T LTE

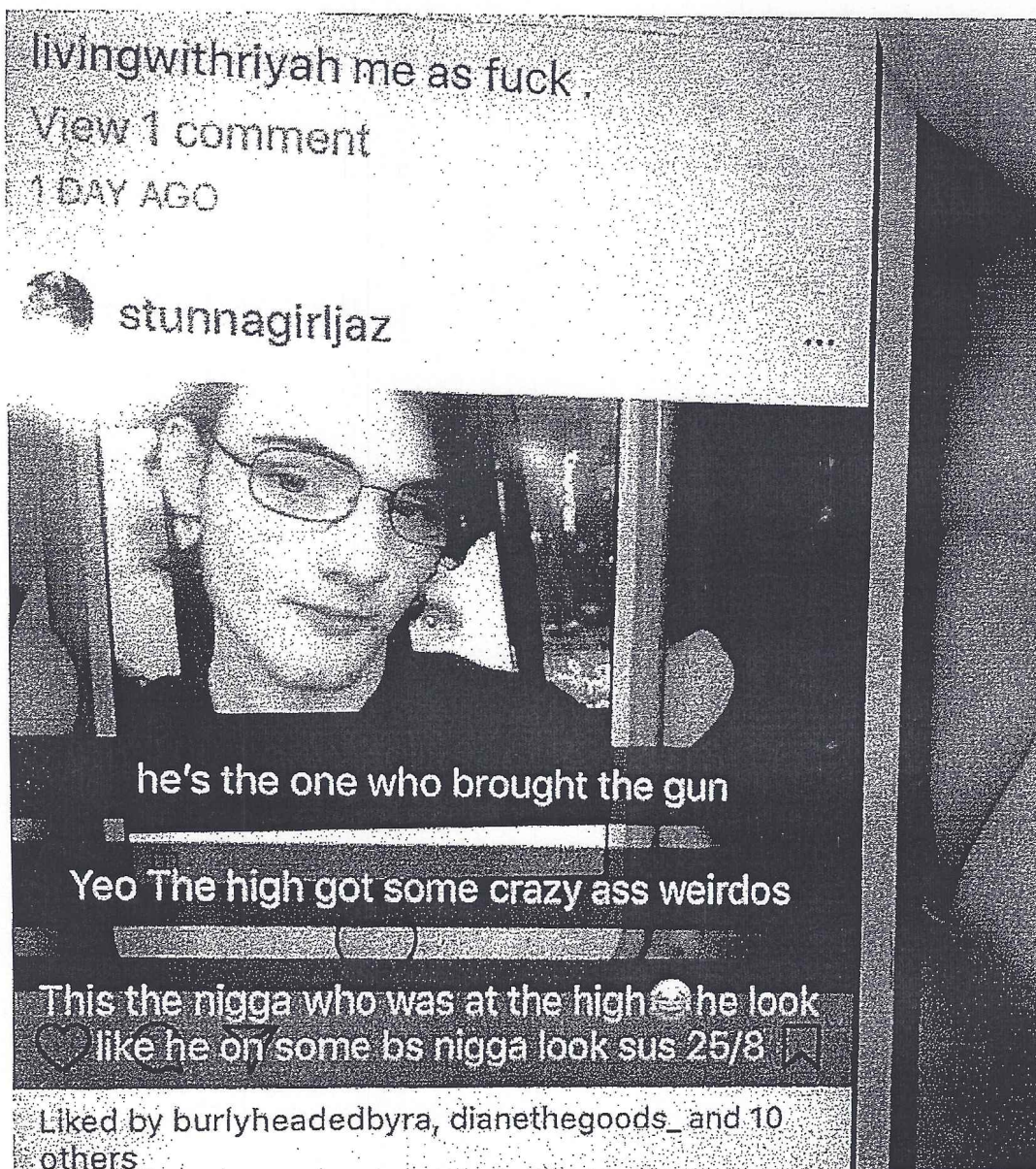
11:28 AM



Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 11:05:35 AM

To: Roseann Fazzino

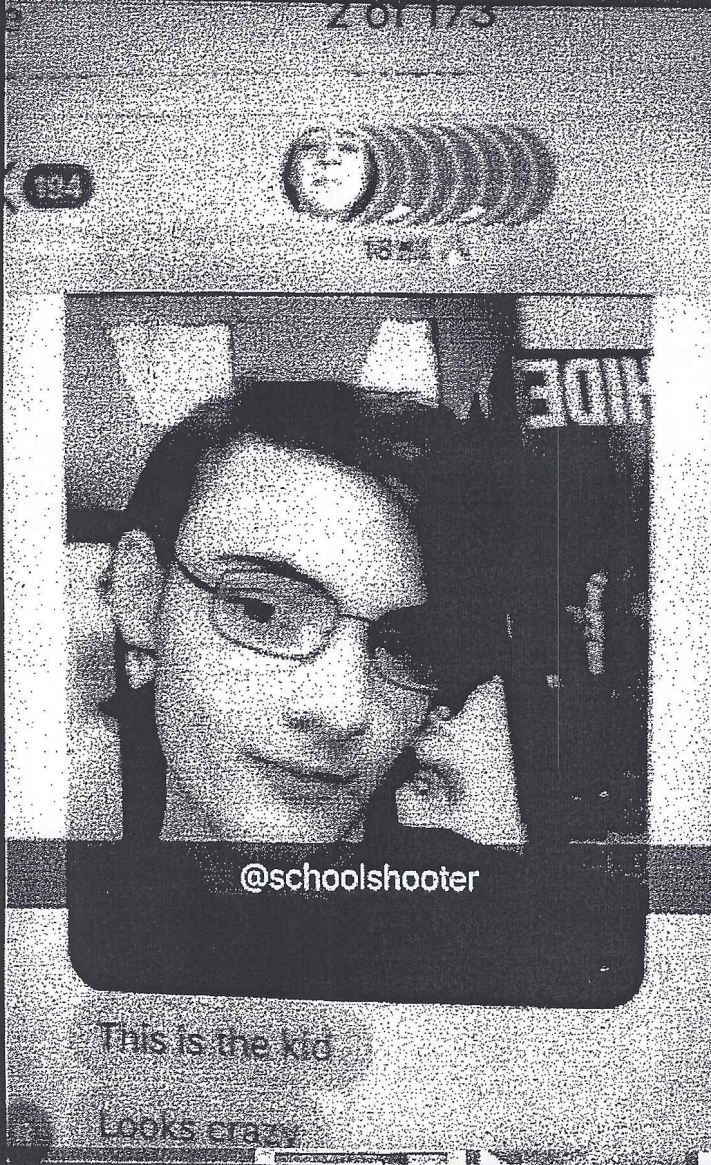
Subject:



1:39 PM

Active now

2 01 17 3



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 if 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

3

View 27 more comments



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?

12h · Like · Reply

1



Melissa Perisanidis 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??

12h · Like · Reply

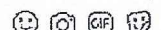
2



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



Write a comment...



Ps



P3



P3



X

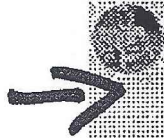
W



OK



Like · 17h · Edited



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!

Like · 13h · Edited



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

Like · 10h



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.

Like · 10h



Bob Duff My statement above is still accurate.

Like · 10h



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

Like · 10h



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

Like · 10h



Bob Duff Elaine Curran Thank you.

Like · 12h



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. And 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!

Like · 11h



Malee Coombs Sparagna



Like · 11h



Bob Duff Kids are being dismissed early by house. If they drove

NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL



Principal
Reginald Roberts

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Jacquelyn Aarons
Karen Amaker
Dr. Carol Marinaccio
Adam Reynolds
Edward Singleton

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 _____

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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.
2. 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.
3. Owen will continue to be seen by the social worker on a weekly basis and the social worker will monitor his situation and progress.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The social worker will contact the parent about this plan.

Signed by:

Owen Lynch_(student)_____

Reginald Roberts-(principal)_____

Carol Marinaccio-(assistant principal)_____

Rondi Olson-(social worker)_____

Yvonne Berrios-(guidance counselor)-_____

Kathleen Milne_(English teacher)_____

Christina Lionheart-Special Education teacher)_____

Michaeleen Montor-(Science teacher)_____

Lynette Martinez-(PE teacher)_____

Don Fessenden-ROTC_____

Kevin Grady_Latin teacher)_____

John Migliaro-(ISS security Officer)_____

Eric Lewis-(Head of security)_____

Heather Florian-(mother)_____

81-27-2

"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 hold 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 screenshoted it and have been reposting it but I never posted it, or Carlos never posted it. We left the situation alone.

[REDACTED]

I saw a post on February 20 2018,
a post about a boy and what he
did to or what to not walk high.
And everyone was posting the screen
shots. And I didn't think anything
of it so I posted it too. I posted a
picture and the caption was "Everything
in the world is crazy and it's like everything
is falling apart, it's so sad." I
didn't think it would be wrong to post
that because it is a situation that
everyone is talking about. I do regret
posting now and I'm sorry, I wouldn't
want this happening to me.

