

WHITE RIVER VALLEY SUPERVISORY UNION

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Dear School Community Members:

December 1, 2017

As you are aware, Dean Stearns has been charged with one count of *Voyeurism* and one count of *Promote Sexual Recording* in Windsor Criminal Court. We understand as members of the South Royalton School Community that parents/guardians, faculty, staff and students have many questions regarding this matter and how it will be addressed by the School District and the Supervisory Union.

At this time Mr. Stearns is on Administrative Leave and is prohibited under his conditions of release from having contact with minors under the age of 18 years old. The School District and SU are cooperating with the Vermont State Police, The Agency of Education and the Department for Children and Families as they investigate the charges against Mr. Stearns. Late yesterday afternoon the Vermont State Police inspected the South Royalton School building and **did not find** any unauthorized recording devices or cameras.

In support of our students, faculty and staff, the School District had several counselors in the school building today under the guidance of Dr. William Ketterer- psychologist. The counselors were available to meet with students, faculty and staff to discuss any issues or concerns rising from this incident. Additionally Acting Administrator Frank Romeo and the South Royalton faculty and staff have been vigilant in reaching out to students who either disclosed some need for additional support or appeared to need support.

As our community continues to respond to the impact of the charges and moves forward in our healing process the support of the counselors, faculty and staff will remain available for those who need a trusting and supportive individual to turn to. Since the weekend is upon us, we wanted to provide you with some resources which are available: The **Clara Martin Center Emergency Hotline: 1-800-639-6390** which will connect you with an emergency clinician; also, the Department of Mental Health has **a texting Crisis Line: text 'VT' #741741**. For faculty and staff the **Invest EAP from VEHI is available at 1-800-287-2173**.

If you believe that your student needs additional support, please reach out to the school or SU administration.

Our community is strong and supportive. We will heal.

Sincerely,



Bruce Labs- Superintendent

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