

Note prompts lockdown at Hononegah

By Rob Baxter

RRSTAR.COM

Posted Mar 05, 2008 @ 09:50 PM

ROCKTON — Hononegah High School was placed on lockdown Wednesday morning after a student found a note that sparked safety concerns.

Rockton Police Chief Steve Dickson said the one-sentence note, which did not contain specific threats of violence, was found in a bathroom. Dickson said officials at the high school were reviewing videotape from cameras outside the bathroom to see whether they could identify who might have gone into the bathroom before the note was found.

"It was one sentence and extremely vague," Dickson said.

Principal Ehren Jarrett said school officials had not identified the writer late Wednesday afternoon but continued their investigation into who may have written it. Jarrett said the note was found by a student, who turned it in to a teacher.

The incident began at 10:50 a.m. and ended at 11:08 a.m. The school was placed on a code yellow lockdown, which alerts teachers to lock their classroom doors and keep students inside. Classroom studies can continue, Jarrett said.

Officials determined there was no need to go to a code red, which is issued when more immediate safety concerns are identified.

After a sweep of the school, classes resumed and the school was back to normal the remainder of the day.

"Without going into any detail, we felt the note was such that it was in the best interest of the school to go to code yellow and investigate it further," Jarrett said. "It was not anything we felt we should go to code red for or evacuate."

Parents were notified of the incident via the School Messenger program, which allows the district to transmit messages quickly to cell phones, e-mail and other electronic devices when an emergency occurs or when other pertinent information needs to be conveyed.

It also posted an alert on the district's Web site at hononegah.org.