



**Dr. Matthew Crowley**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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Good Afternoon,

I am writing to update you on a troubling situation involving the WMHS athletics program that has been covered in the news recently.

An incident occurred this past September involving student athletes and included allegations of physical and sexual abuse of a student by their teammates. I understand that there have been strong reactions to this situation and appreciate there is a deep desire for as much information as possible regarding the incident and the school district's response. I share in the collective shock and outrage regarding this incident.

The Woburn Public Schools has retained outside counsel, the law firm of Butters Brazilian LLP and Attorney Patrick Hanley to conduct a comprehensive Title IX investigation, which remains ongoing. At the conclusion of the Title IX Investigation, a second investigation, in the form of an administrative review and policy analysis, will be conducted by a second outside agency, a firm headed by former Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety and Security Daniel Bennett, Former State Police Colonel Kerry Gilpin and Attorney John Benzan.

In addition to our commissioned investigations, the matter has been investigated by the Woburn Police Department and the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. The school district has cooperated fully with the law enforcement investigation. As these matters concern allegations involving minors, there was and remains much we cannot say publicly about this situation.

However, I wish to be unequivocal in the fact that I join every member of the WPS administration in condemning physical and sexual violence in all forms. We are committed to a thorough, multifaceted fact finding operation, and we pledge to be forthcoming regarding the results of those investigations and to enact their findings and recommendations.

As these investigations remain active and ongoing, we will continue to allow that process to unfold. I urge patience as we are all eager to view the results, myself included.

Finally, as school leaders, we acknowledge and have offered support to the student and family that had the strength to come forward to report this deeply troubling matter.

Incidents like these have no place in our community. We have consulted with the MIAA for its guidance and expertise and had a consultant from the Anti-Hazing collaborative come to work with all of our winter sports coaches. Moving forward, all of our coaches will be required to undertake extensive supplemental training to ensure our athletics programs are a safe, nurturing and healthy experience for the children and young adults who participate in them.

As your superintendent I promise that the standards we will set for ourselves, our sports programs and how we are to treat one another will be of paramount importance as we continue to move through this process and learn all the facts and circumstances.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Crowley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Crowley Ed.D.

Superintendent