Student arrested after bomb threat at West Irondequoit middle school

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Police investigated a bomb threat Tuesday morning made against Rogers Middle School in the West Irondequoit Central School District.

The building at Northfield Drive was cleared at about 9:20 a.m. and by the afternoon an unnamed Rogers student was arrested and accused of falsely reporting the threat by the Irondequoit Police Department. Rogers Middle school teaches students from fourth to sixth grade.

“The search stemmed from an incident reported to the Webster Police Department,” Irondequoit police said. “During their investigation it was learned that the target of the threat was the Rogers Middle School and that there was a threat to place a bomb at the school on May 22, 2018.”

According to the school district, a middle school student had a conversation with a Webster resident online. The student allegedly reported that the Webster resident made threats against the school.

Upon learning of the alleged threat, the Irondequoit police and the West Irondequoit School District planned to search the Rogers and Southlawn school buildings the next morning, according to a letter from the district’s Superintendent Jeffrey Crane.

Law enforcement cleared the buildings. No threats to students or staff were found, according to Carol Crumlish, the district spokesperson.

A juvenile Rogers student was charged with falsely reporting an incident in the first degree, a Class D felony, according to Irondequoit police. The case was referred to Monroe County Family Court.

The schools were searched by the district’s security staff, a K-9 unit, Irondequoit police, Monroe County sheriff’s deputies and Crane. The Webster Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Joint Terrorism Task Force assisted in the investigation.

“We are limited to the amount of information we can disclose,” said Crane, who added that the investigation is ongoing.

Students and staff were allowed in the building about 20 minutes after the school day officially started at 9 a.m., Crumlish said.

Crane’s letter encouraged families to remind children of internet safety and “reinforce that comments made online, even those made in the heat of the moment or as a prank, will be taken seriously and will result in consequences at school and through the legal system. The district will file charges when appropriate.”

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