School Meeting Writeup:

Considering the current epidemic facing schools in America, I thought it was appropriate to attend the meeting that addressed the school closure that followed the safety threat last week. Only about a week or two before this closure, Rocky experienced an unscheduled lock down that I was also present for. This experience was quite frightening for me and it has caused many concerns to surface. Although the students and teachers of RMHS conducted themselves appropriately and seemed prepared for the drill, I was unaware of the exact protocol to follow. The following class period, Officer Hess was able to illuminate some of the correct procedures for dealing with potential threats which quelled many of my concerns, and the school meeting Thursday only furthered my confidence in my ability to appropriately address threats to school safety.

The main topics of the meeting addressed what exactly happened the day of the school closure, what has happened since to alleviate the threat, and how to deal with the impact on the school as we move forward. Rocky’s principle assured teachers of the school’s commitment to safety and keeping teachers “in the know” so that they can inform students. The preceding lockdown drill and closure only improved RMHS’s readiness to address possible threats by working out any kinks in protocol. For example, during the lockdown, some students were unable to lock themselves into the rooms they were in because teachers were not present with their keys. Obviously, this is unacceptable as student’s lives were on the line because of the convenience of keeping a door unlocked. It is small inconsistencies in adherence to protocol that can make all the difference. These inconsistencies were illuminated by the unscheduled drill and can now be fixed.

Moving forward, Rocky made it clear that our number one priority as teachers is to continue to promote the community of our school. Although school shootings and threats to our safety have become more commonplace, it does not mean that the potential trauma of situations like this don’t affect our well- being and it is important to be willing and able to give support to students and our colleagues.

Personally, I feel extremely disheartened by the violent climate of our country. It hurts me to consider myself part of a society that could be capable of the type of cruelty I have seen inflicted on others and I sometimes feel powerless to change this. As a perspective educator, I sometimes feel upset that I might have to live in fear of me or my students being targeted, but the experience I’ve had at Rocky involving potential safety threats has produced the opposite effect. I feel that the administration has made me feel informed and confident in my ability to deal with these types of threats if they were to arise, and Rocky’s focus on community and support have made me feel like I am a part of something that would come together to fight the cruelty the world might inflict on us. I am still in disbelief that lock down drills and school closures are even a part of our current reality in schools, but I feel like being part of the Rocky community has helped me alleviate most of the fear I feel. I hope that going forward I will be able to foster this community of support and safety in my classroom.