

Probe targets school staffer

Webster police investigate allegation

SARAH TADDEO

@SJTADDEO AND VICTORIA E. FREILE @VFREILE

The Webster Police Department is investigating an allegation against a Webster Central School District employee.

The allegations against the employee have not been released. Police have been working closely with district officials, according to a joint statement released by Webster Police Chief Joseph Rieger and Superintendent of Schools Carmen Gumina.

After being made aware of the investigation, the district employee was placed on administrative leave.

Rieger declined to comment on the allegations, citing the ongoing investigation. He said he intends to discuss the case at a news conference at a later time.

Gumina posted a letter to Webster families and employees on the district's website. In the letter, Gumina said the allegation against a district employee was reported to police on Saturday.

"I know many of you want more details about the employee in question, but due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, I am unable to share further information with you at this time," he wrote. "While I realize the lack of information is frustrating for so many of you, it is what is necessary as the Webster Police continue their investigation. I will also share more information with you as I am able."

Because many want to know what occurred, unsubstantiated rumors are often and quickly shared, by word of mouth and on social media, he said. Gumina asked parents, students and employees to respect the investigation process "as it does protect all of the children and adults involved."

"I know it may seem to be strange for me to write this next line, especially in light of the tone we tend to find on social media, but compassion and kindness do go a long way in this type of experience," he wrote in the letter.

"Nothing in our world is more important than the health and safety of our children, and that is always at the forefront of each and every decision that our district (and police department) makes on behalf of our families."

STADDEO@Gannett

.com

VFREILE@Gannett

.com



Wednesday, 03/08/2017 Pag.A05

Copyright © 2017 Democrat and Chronicle 3/8/2017