

Incident with SRO at CHS on 4/24/24

The incident occurred during lunch in front of the building.

Conversations occurred between Deputy Hand and [REDACTED] grandpa, who has custody of [REDACTED]:

- Deputy Hand and Grandpa had a previous agreement that Deputy Hand would escort his grandson ([REDACTED]) to the front office anytime [REDACTED] became defiant or misbehaved.
- When [REDACTED] (Grandpa) arrived at CHS, he immediately went into the SRO office, he spoke to Deputy Hand who explained why [REDACTED] was escorted into the SRO office. Deputy Hand and [REDACTED] discussed the situation with [REDACTED], and asked [REDACTED] if he understood why Deputy Hand had escorted him to the office, [REDACTED] said yes, and then was released to return to class. [REDACTED] was not hostile nor upset by Deputy Hand's actions at that time.
- After [REDACTED] finished his discussion with Deputy Hand he came to my office to get [REDACTED] where [REDACTED] continued to scream obscenities and make accusations about the Deputies being racist and police brutality, etc. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] multiple times to stop and to calm down. He took [REDACTED] home with him. At no time did [REDACTED] discuss with me that he was upset or agree with [REDACTED].
- Next, I had a conversation with [REDACTED] grandma ([REDACTED] was the one who was cuffed and taken to the ground by Deputy Peterson). [REDACTED] grandma was in full agreement with how the situation was handled. She stated to [REDACTED] that his behavior was unacceptable, and would not be tolerated.
- When [REDACTED] and Grandma left the building, [REDACTED] went over to both deputies apologized, and shook their hands.

On 4/25/24

- [REDACTED] and his grandma came into the main office to talk to myself and Ryan Whittington to see if there was anything [REDACTED] needed to do before returning to class. During that conversation, Grandma stated that she had watched a few of the videos, and although it was hard to watch [REDACTED] being taken down to the ground and handcuffed, it was [REDACTED] fault. Grandma continued to say [REDACTED] had no business calling a Sheriff a "nigger", disobeying what he was asked to do, and taunting students to fight. Grandma also stated, that she blamed the [REDACTED] children for all of this blowing up, and they had no business saying this was racially motivated, and [REDACTED] wasn't even Hispanic. After that Grandpa left, and [REDACTED] went back to class.



Justin Montover <justin.montover@mesacounty.us>

Fwd: Lunch Incident 4/24

1 message

Montez, Marco <marco.montez@d51schools.org>
Reply-To: Marco.Montez@d51schools.org
To: "justin.montover@mesacounty.us" <justin.montover@mesacounty.us>

Fri, Apr 26, 2024 at 10:52 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Arledge, Tracy** <tracy.arledge@d51schools.org>

Date: Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 10:09 PM

Subject: Lunch Incident 4/24

To: Andrea Haitz <Andrea.Haitz@d51schools.org>, Clint Garcia <Clint.Garcia@d51schools.org>, Brian Hill <Brian.Hill@d51schools.org>, Jennifer Marsh <Jennifer.Marsh@d51schools.org>, Tim Leon <Tim.Leon@d51schools.org>, Will Jones <Will.Jones@d51schools.org>, Angela Lema <Angela.Lema@d51schools.org>, Tammy Eret <Tammy.Eret@d51schools.org>

CC: Phillip Peterson <phillip.peterson@mesacounty.us>, Michael Hand <michael.hand@mesacounty.us>, Shauna Hobbs <Shauna.Hobbs@d51schools.org>, Brandon Milholland <Brandon.Milholland@d51schools.org>, Josh King <Josh.King@d51schools.org>, Ryan Whittington <Ryan.Whittington@d51schools.org>, Marco Montez <Marco.Montez@d51schools.org>

Hello!

I am sorry for the group email, but I wanted to share some salient points about an incident that happened at lunch on our Campus on Wednesday. I would like to give context, but also give support for our SROs who acted in complete integrity according to their training in crowd management.

1--the incident that had been brewing between 2 female students had finally landed in the front of the school in the fire lane. By this time, both girls had enlisted the support of their friends, their boyfriends, and their brothers. Each female had their boyfriends and their brothers also arguing.

2--the argument was heated and many racial slurs on both sides were thrown out. There has been some accusations that this fight was about race, but it was quite the contrary. There were white and hispanic students on both sides of the argument, so there was no clear "white" side or "brown side" as has been alleged by parents.

3--the argument between the girls was based on social media insults to and about each other, including derogatory marks about how each of them looked or even about their mothers. It was not kind by any means, but could have been resolved with restorative justice had this been brought to counselors or administrators.

4--there were no punches thrown, but there was an alleged shove between a girl on one side (the 11th grader) and the boyfriend's brother of the other girl (the 9th grader.)

5--Once Mrs. Hobbs and our SRO's broke up the crowd gathering and sent people into the building, some witnesses told their stories, including the 9th and 11th grade girls.

There had been a truck that drove up driven by the girlfriend of the boy who allegedly shoved the 9th grade girl. The 9th grade girl's boyfriend, his brother, his girlfriend, and his little brother (who is the boyfriend of the 9th grade girl in the conflict.)

6--Mrs. Hobbs tried to bring in the 9th grade girl and her friend while the car load drove away, and at this point enlisted the help of the SROs. The friends/boyfriend/brother of the 11th grade girl in the fight began to yell at the SROs for breaking it up and began to use profanity and racial slurs toward the SROs. The SROs then had to turn their attention to this crowd forming and who was apparently pretty hostile at this point. One crowd even threatened to "kick his ass" and "his" is meaning the SRO. One of the most vocal 11th grade boys even shoulder checked and showed aggression toward our SRO.

7--At this point, our SRO attempted to contain this student and take him to the office. The student continued yelling and resisted the officer. The officer then had to throw him to the ground to handcuff him to take him to the office. At this point, the crowd became even more incensed and tried to crowd the officer who was handcuffing the student. The other officer

had to protect his partner and pulled out his taser and threatened students who were encroaching. Students finally started to back off and realized that they needed to calm down.

8-The SROs then brought in two 11th grade boys, the boyfriend and the brother of the 11th grade girl in the argument, and called both parents and grandparents. Mrs. Hobbs called the parents of the 9th grade girl and her friend. None of the parents or grandparents were happy about the situation, but all understood that their students should not have challenged the authority of the SROs and were in the wrong. There had been no punches thrown, so students were spoken to and returned to class.

9-At 7:00 PM, the parents of a friend of the 11th grade girl (who wasn't even there) and the 2 girls came into the office to speak with Mrs. Arledge and Mrs. Hobbs to show the video and file a complaint against the officers. We watched the video, and we explained that the officers were acting in accordance with their training, but that we were not trained officers so probably did not have all of the answers they were looking for. They wanted an investigation opened, and we told them that they would have to speak to the sheriff's office about that because law enforcement is not our jurisdiction, but that we were in support of our SROs. They said they planned to do that, and I believe they did.

10-The 11th grade girl also found and showed us a photo of the 11th grade boy who shoved her holding a gun. We encouraged her to generate a Safe2Tell in case we couldn't get reach law enforcement. This girl did generate 2 of those reports, but there was no threat in the Instagram post, only a picture of the student with a gun. I asked Mr. Milholland to call Tim Leon and Marv DiPilato. Mr. Milholland did that and spoke with Tim Leon. We made a plan to meet in the morning at 7:00 AM and not to allow the young man with the gun or his brother on campus while we completed a threat assessment.

11-Mike Hand, one of our SROs, also made sure that the house of the young man with the picture of the gum was searched that evening. The gun was actually a BB gun, but it was a threatening picture, and we did not know if the student had the gun facsimile on campus earlier that day.

12-At 7 AM this morning, we all discussed the situation together: Marv DiPilato, Jason Talley, Tracy Arledge, Josh King, Brandon Milholland, Ryan Whittington, Shauna Hobbs, Tim Leon, Mike Hand, Phil Peterson. We were all on the same page and made a plan to gather as many witness statements as possible, but the boys and girls who argued on no-contact contracts, and to begin the threat assessment of the young man with the gun facsimile. This plan was carried out by CHS administration and Jason Talley.

I would like to write in support of our SROs. They acted entirely from the stance of protecting our staff and students from harm, and were trying to prevent the crowd from getting out of hand. Mrs. Hobbs asked for their assistance in bringing the girls in, but the boys in the crowd took this situation to a different level. The heated exchanges necessitated the SROs to try to calm them down, and the boys who were belligerent and non-compliant posed an additional threat to the officers.

Our SROs have done an incredible job at building rapport with students and creating a tangible presence in our building. We are lucky to have them in our corner, and we all feel safer with them there. I admire their courage and dedication to our school.

Any of the CHS administrators will be happy to speak or answer questions about this incident, and we can hopefully provide clarity for any interested parties. I know that there are several angles of the videos of the incident between the officer and the student, and some angles show more clearly than others that the boy who was handcuffed was not complying with the officer's request to go to the office.

Thank you for listening,

Tracy Arledge

Principal

Central High School

970-254-6200, x 22107





Justin Montover <justin.montover@mesacounty.us>

Issues at CHS written by AP Shawna Hobbs


Marco Montez <marco.montez@mesacounty.us>
To: Justin Montover <justin.montover@mesacounty.us>

Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 11:49 AM

Justin attached is a written response to School Board Member Andrea Haitz from AP Shauna Hobbs. I received this document on 07/28 in a google doc without rights, so I had to have it as a PDF to send to you.

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Sergeant Marco Montez
Mesa County Sheriff's Office
Patrol / Sec 1 / SRO Unit
SWAT/Firearms/Arrest Control
Cell 970-986-1331
Office 244-3205

 **Incident with SRO at CHS on 4_24_24 (1) written by AP Hobbs.pdf**
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