

February 24, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

As teachers we all wonder what we would do if we were faced with an immediate threat at school. Yesterday we saw the response of some of our teachers and staff colleagues, and it was just what we all hope would occur.

What the teachers, bus drivers, and assistant principal at Deer Creek Middle School did was nothing short of a miracle. Dr. David Benke's quick reaction undoubtedly saved lives. He is a hero, and we are proud of him and all the other staff who protected their students yesterday.

Attendance Secretary Mick Kircher stopped the stranger when he first arrived at the school. Choir teacher Carrie Fletcher heard the shots and ran toward them. Steve Potter and Jim O'Brien, bus drivers, got their students on the floor of the buses and ran to assist math teachers David Benke and Norm Hanne who were subduing the shooter. Assistant principal Becky Brown moved the dropped gun away. And staff throughout the building immediately worked to shelter and calm their students.

The staff at Deer Creek did as we have all been trained to do. Yesterday's tragedy is a reminder of the important part we play in keeping a watchful eye in our schools and keeping our students safe.

The staff at Deer Creek did everything right. And we thank them for that.

Kerrie Dallman
JCEA president