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## Lockdown and Hold & Secure: Reminder for Students

December 5's Lockdown and Hold & Secure events were stressful and upsetting. Fortunately, all students and staff are safe. Although our school was not directly affected, we appreciate your patience and calm as we communicated with Board staff and police to ensure everyone's safety.

Kingston Police responded promptly and conducted comprehensive and multiple searches of the affected schools and concluded there was no threat and everyone was safe. Police continue to investigate and we are confident they will arrest whomever is responsible for these threats.

Although events like this are rare, we recognize that individuals react to situations like this in different ways. We may feel helplessness, anxiety and anger. Whatever you feel is okay. Our schools and Educational Services staff are working together to ensure you receive the support you may need for as long as needed. [REFER TO TIP SHEET]

This is a good time to review our protocols during a Lockdown and Hold & Secure event.

During a Lockdown, there is a **potential** immediate threat of violence to students and staff inside the school building. Our main objective is to protect the safety of everyone by securing them behind locked doors. School does not operate as normal. Students and staff are placed into secure locations and stay out of sight lines into the area. Students and staff are **not to use electronic devices during a lockdown** unless they have critical information for the police or emergency services (911 purposes). Access to the school is restricted; no one is allowed in or out.

During a Hold & Secure, all exterior doors are locked due to a **potential** emergency situation in close proximity to the school (outside the school, on school grounds and/or unrelated to the school) such as a police pursuit/investigation or incident in the neighbourhood. All exterior doors will be locked and no one is allowed in or out of our building. Regular classroom routines can continue. We might ignore the change of classes and remain in our room and wait for further instructions. Again, students and staff are **not to use electronic devices during a lockdown** unless they have critical information for the police or emergency services (911 purposes)

We know that it is tempting to share the information about a Lockdown or Hold & Secure with your parents or friends but it is critically important that there is no cell phone use – no texting and no use of any social media. This includes staff other than administration or



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appointed staff who are in contact with police (should they be required) and the Board Office.

Our first priority is to keep all students and staff safe. If students or staff are on cell phones, you can clog up the airwaves which are needed for emergency communications, you can spread misinformation and panic, and you could be giving away information that might jeopardize our safety and/or prevent the police from their investigation.

When it is safe to do so, the Board office will send out communication to alert families and the community to what is going on.

We expect you to do your part to adhere to these protocols which are meant to keep all of us safe. Again, we appreciate everyone's support and we are glad everyone is safe.