

**WADE LOCKETT**  
Principal

**JOHNIE FERRO**  
Assistant Principal



**JODI F. DRESCHER**  
Assistant Principal

**JAMES RISE**  
Athletic Director/TOSA

## SILVERTON HIGH SCHOOL

*Together...cultivating character and academic growth in each student. Every day.*

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November 16, 2017

Dear Silverton High School Community--

The safety and well-being of all students at Silverton High School is our number one priority at SHS and we take that role very seriously each day. Considering the recent social media that has been initiated by the incident at the high school yesterday, I would like to follow-up by addressing a few items.

Early this week a school counselor brought a student into her office to discuss a petition that had recently began circulating with the intent of disbanding the Gay-Straight Alliance at the high school. This is not acceptable. The counselor let him know, under no uncertain terms, that there was no amount of signatures collected that would entice the administration into a conversation about this, and that the GSA is a club that will continue to exist at Silverton High School. It was understood that the petition would cease to exist at that point.

Yesterday there were incidents that surfaced in a very short period of time that alerted school staff to the fact that the petition was still circulating and that it was causing a substantial disruption to the school day. In response, the petition was immediately shut down. I made an announcement over the PA directing that petitions of this sort will not be tolerated. I also reiterated Silverton High School's commitment to being a safe and welcoming environment for all students. This is who we are. Contrary to several social media posts, this petition was neither permitted, nor on the radar of SHS administration until Wednesday when it resurfaced. Additionally, we sent out an automated call and an announcement to parents and invited them to discuss the situation with their students and to contact me if they had any questions about the matter. At the regularly scheduled faculty meeting on Wednesday afternoon, staff debriefed on the situation and what actions were taken. Finally, staff continued to check in with students throughout the day on Thursday and are reporting that students are moving forward in a positive manner. We took this matter very seriously but also know that it is a learning situation and we are accessing the supports we have in place here at the high school as they are needed.

There was also much speculation as to what kind of punishment students would receive who participated in the petition. Every student has a right to be safe and welcomed and students are held accountable for their actions when those actions do not support these core values. With that said, please also understand that we can never share with the community what has happened as each student and their parents have the right to privacy.

Please trust that the administration and staff at Silverton High School are taking this very seriously. Our goal is for all of our students to feel valued and safe at Silverton High School and within the community. The recent posts on social media do not accurately reflect the current climate at the high school and we would respectfully ask that people not engage in discussions on social media that are based in speculation. We would also ask that people not make disparaging remarks about any SHS student. Our kids are

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afforded the right to learn difficult lessons free of a social media jury. This is a learning opportunity for our entire educational community and we will treat this as such. Knowing how to have a respectful conversation is essential to the growth as young men and women at Silverton High School. Modeling that behavior as adults is also essential. Our kids will learn from this and our school will become a better place because of it.

As principal of SHS, I would like to ask that if you have continued questions or concerns you contact me directly.

Thank you for your time, understanding and support.

Sincerely,  
Wade Lockett  
Principal, Silverton High School