



## Joint Press Release from St. Anthony-New Brighton School District and St. Anthony Police Department

April 13, 2018

Student safety is a priority in the St. Anthony-New Brighton School District. We want to follow up on a situation that occurred at Wilshire Park Elementary School on the morning of Wednesday, April 11, 2018.

A 28 year old south Minneapolis man entered Wilshire Park before the final rounds of door locking occurred after morning drop off. After school began, he was confronted by staff who inquired about his reasons for being in the school building. Staff escorted him out of the school. He entered the office trailer where he signed in and was denied access into the school building. Staff asked him to leave and observed him walking down 37th Ave. The man turned South onto Highcrest Road, came back on school property outside of the building and 911 was called. Staff were in contact with 911 and continued reporting his whereabouts to dispatch. The man left in a vehicle that was parked in the neighborhood and was stopped and detained by police for questioning.

Police were unable to identify any connection between the subject and children/staff at Wilshire Park. In addition, police checked for any connection between the subject and Elmwood Evangelical Free Church, as he was seen at their location as well. No connection was identified. Our department records, as well as others from surrounding agencies were checked. No previous contacts were identified. The man's family was ultimately contacted and no reason was identified as to why he would have been in the area of the school.

While interacting with police, the suspect displayed behavior that led officers to believe he may be suffering from a type of mental health crisis. Officers had the suspect transported to a psychiatric care facility for evaluation.

At this time, we have no information to believe the subject in this case was premeditated in his entry of the school. A criminal history check was completed and did not indicate any crimes of violence, victim crimes, domestic issues, violations of a protection order or no-contact order.

As indicated in an earlier press release, an unloaded, uncased shotgun was found in the back of his vehicle. At this time, nothing was located to preclude him from being in possession. A Hennepin County Judge has signed off on charges of Trespassing and Illegal Transport of a Firearm late yesterday afternoon.

The school district and police department remain very committed to provide a safe environment for our students in all of our schools. The incident will be reviewed to determine how we can further the safety of students and staff in our schools.