

IC Message sent to high school parents in May 10, 2017:

“The Ripon Area School District does not typically comment on personnel matters. However, under the circumstances, we think it is important to address some of the inaccurate information and rumors about the recent resignation of Samantha Fitzpatrick from District employment. As explained in a message to the parents of students in Ms. Fitzpatrick’s classes, she voluntarily resigned from employment effective May 3, 2017, after the administration addressed concerns about her unreliable attendance. Any suggestion that her resignation was based on another reason or that she was fired is simply inaccurate.

In December 2016, the District investigated allegations of improper conduct by Ms. Fitzpatrick unrelated to her attendance. At the conclusion of the investigation, the District notified the City of Ripon Police Department and other relevant parties of the allegations. The City of Ripon Police Department and the Ripon Area School District concluded there was insufficient evidence to open a police investigation. It is our understanding that new information was recently shared with the City of Ripon Police Department and they are conducting an investigation. The District will cooperate with that investigation as requested and permitted by law.

Student safety is an essential part of the District’s purpose and mission. The District has adopted policies and administrative guidelines designed, in large part, to ensure student safety. The District’s administration and staff are trained to enforce these policies and guidelines and to enlist the assistance of law enforcement as necessary. We trust that our administrators and staff are taking necessary actions to ensure student safety.

When rumors and other unsubstantiated information about current or former District employees is repeated and otherwise spread throughout the community, including on social media, it is likely to have a negative impact on the District, our students, and our community. As the 2016-17 school year comes to an end, we want to focus on the outstanding contributions and efforts of our students, especially our graduating seniors, and our staff members. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support for our District.

Thank you,

Dr. Mary Whitrock, Superintendent

Ripon Area School District "