



3497 North Ammon Road, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401 ☐ (208) 525-4400 ☐ Fax (208) 557-6800 ☐ www.d93schools.org

Dr. Scott Woolstenhulme, Superintendent

April 10th, 2020

Notification about Google Meets

We had an unfortunate incident in a high school Google Meet this week when an intruder into the Meet displayed a pornographic video. Like our physical classrooms, Google Meets is secured from outside individuals entering into these virtual classrooms unless someone grants access to them.

In this situation, a student in the class shared the link to the Google Meet with an individual from outside of our District. That individual then masked his identity by using the name of another student in the class. Because the screen name appeared to be that of a current student, the teacher likely admitted the individual into the class. The intruder then shared his screen to the class and displayed the pornographic video for about 10 seconds before the teacher was able to end the Meet.

This unfortunate situation has been repeated in districts across the country, and [some districts have stopped the use of virtual meetings completely.](#) While I am absolutely heartsick over what happened, I do not believe that we need to end Google Meets completely yet.

Today, I informed all District teachers about this situation and provided them with clear direction that under no circumstances should they admit anyone to their Google Meet even if the screen name appears to be that of a student. When someone attempts to enter a Google Meet without using a District Gmail account, the message to the right appears.

Someone wants to join this meeting



Text

Deny entry

Admit

Sometimes, students have legitimately tried to enter Google Meets from their personal Gmail account or their parents' Gmail account. However, teachers now understand that they cannot permit access to outside accounts, even if it appears to be a legitimate request. I have also given clear direction on other steps they should take to keep Google Meets safe for students by preventing students from re-entering virtual classrooms after they have ended

In addition to providing this direction to teachers, we are also including the following expectation in our Student Code of Conduct:

Google Meets and other official virtual meeting spaces are intended to be secure learning environments, just like actual classrooms. Sharing information about how to access virtual classrooms with anyone except for students enrolled in that class will be considered a major offense due to the risk posed to other students. The first offense will result in a five-day suspension; a second offense will result in a recommendation for expulsion for the duration of the school year.

Please know that if you are concerned about the potential risk to your own children, participating in Google Meets is not mandatory. We will absolutely respect your right to keep your children safe in the way that you best see fit. We have also provided information to support parents at our virtual helpdesk: d93.zendesk.com.

I sincerely apologize that our students were put at risk. We will continue to monitor this situation closely, and if it appears that the steps we have taken to address this situation do not prevent this from recurring, we will end these meetings completely.

For your information, I will host a Facebook Live meeting for parents on Thursday, April 16th at 8:00 pm at www.facebook.com/bjsd93. At that time, I will discuss whether schools will reopen this year, our School Board's adoption of Mastery-based Learning for the rest of this year, and any other questions or concerns that parents may have. If you have a question that you would like me to answer in that meeting, please send it to me through the Ask the Superintendent link on our homepage: www.d93schools.org.

Thank you for all you have done to keep your children engaged in learning through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Woolstenhulme', written in a cursive style.

Scott Woolstenhulme
Superintendent
Bonneville School District 93