

GCCS teacher on paid suspension after arrest by CPD

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GCCS to investigate incident at CMS when classes resume

The Charlestown Police Department had officers stationed at each school leading up to the students' winter break after the tragedy in Newtown, CT. Officers were visible working to maintain safety and calm nerves for parents, staff and students.

The officer stationed at Charlestown Middle School, Chuck Deaton, spent the last several hours on Friday afternoon before the winter break investigating an unlabeled pill bottle filled with a green, leafy substance that was located inside the school's office.

After the situation was brought to Officer Deaton's attention, he immediately looked at video with assistant principal, Tim Lagrange. When viewing the video the officer seen a bottle, matching the description of the bottle found, fall out of the pocket of a male teacher. The teacher was later identified as Kevin Hennegan. CMS administration then notified Greater Clark County Schools Administration, Superintendent Dr. Andrew Melin and Assistant Superintendent Travis Haire.

Officer Deaton then called Sgt. Terry Braswell to the school. A short time later, Assistant Chief Jason Broady also arrived to assist in the investigation. Officers also called CPD K-9 Officer Ben Bertram and K-9 Kubo. The K-9 team searched Hennegan's classroom and the surrounding rooms.

The investigation continued when officers received a search warrant for the suspect's home. The suspect's vehicle was also searched by the K-9 team.

K-9 Kubo made positive alerts in Hennegan's classroom.

During the investigation Hennegan continued to deny the pill bottle filled with the green leafy substance, which field tested positive for marijuana, was his.

After the investigation Hennegan, 56, was arrested and charged with Maintaining a Common Nuisance, a Class D Felony; Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class A Misdemeanor and Possession of Marijuana, a Class A Misdemeanor. He was transported to the Michael Becher Adult Correctional Complex without incident.

Hennegan is a social studies teacher at Charlestown Middle School. He has been an employee of Greater Clark County Schools since 1990.

Hennegan has posted bond and will return to court next week.

Greater Clark County Schools released the following statement after the incident: "On Friday afternoon (December 21), a Charlestown Middle School teacher was arrested on school property. Kevin Hennegan, age 56, is a social studies teacher at Charlestown Middle School and has been employed with the district since 1990."

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Andrew Melin, stated, "The Charlestown Police Department is overseeing the investigation and I do not have all of the details of the arrest at this time. Mr. Hennegan also has been suspended with pay pending an administrative investigation into this very serious situation. Greater Clark County Schools is currently on winter break and our investigation is limited in nature until classes resume on January 7, 2013."

The statement from Dr. Melin concluded, "This is an unfortunate situation for Mr. Hennegan, but more importantly Charlestown Middle School and Greater Clark County Schools. At this time, there is no indication that students were involved in this matter. Charlestown Middle School students, parents and faculty should be assured that the district is dedicated to the school's success."