

CR # CT13-44545

PROGRESS REPORT

CR#: CT13-44545

CASE TYPE: Attempt homicide

REPORT BY: Investigator Richard A. Sheets

ACTION DATE: 121313

SUBJECT: Witness interviews.

On 121313, while at the command post awaiting an assignment, I was contacted by ACSO Investigations Lieutenant Kevin Heaton, who advised that there were three witnesses at the Chase Bank that needed to be taken to ACSO headquarters to be interviewed in a recorded interview room. I then transported the following two witnesses to headquarters while the third was transported by Investigator Tim Evans and Ed Long:

Rust, Cameron Michael

DOB: [REDACTED]

And

Kolk, Christina Marie

DOB: [REDACTED]

Upon arrival at ACSO headquarters, I placed Cameron into interview room #3417 and I had Christina wait in the victim assistance family waiting room, as all of the other interview rooms were occupied. I then met with Cameron and he provided the following information:

Near the beginning of this school year, he was informed in one of their security meetings that Karl Pierson had threatened the head librarian identified as Tracy Murphy.

It was the third or fourth week of school that he found out about the threat.

He was told that Tracy Murphy had kicked Karl out of the library for bad conduct; however he did not know what the conduct was.

They were told that the school administration had met with Karl and his mother and Karl's mother reassured the school that Karl was just angry and nothing would happen.

After that meeting, the security staff was told to just keep an eye on Karl and Tracy Murphy.

He believes that Karl was suspended for just one day.

About six weeks ago, he and Christina Kolk were instructed to keep an eye on Karl.

They observed Karl in the cafeteria on his laptop computer.

As they walked past Karl, they observed Karl looking at guns on the internet.

Karl quickly closed his laptop when he saw them looking at him.

They went into the office and informed Assistant Principal Darrell Meredith of what they saw and Darrell told them that he would bring it up at the next Monday administration meeting.

Darrell told them to continue to keep an eye on Karl.

Back in October he briefly spoke with Karl about what Karl's college plans were and Karl said he was going to go to the Air Force Academy.

Karl seemed to be interested in the military.

Karl then "Fell off the radar" and things seemed ok.

On 12/13, he was told to go help Assistant Principal Kevin Kolasa with a student.

When he arrived to Kevin Kolasa's location, he saw that the student was Karl.

This was outside the DECCA store, which is at the south end of the cafeteria.

This occurred at the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> period, between 1215 and 1230 hours.

When he arrived, he heard Karl telling Kevin why he had been kicked out of his Spanish class.

The Spanish teacher was Vicky Lombardi.

He listened while they talked and Kevin then asked him to take Karl to the attendance office while he (Kevin) went and got Vicky Lombardi's side of the story.

Karl told him that he left class to go get a drink of water and when he returned to class, the door was locked.

Karl stated that he knocked on the door and a student saw him knocking on the door, but did not come open the door for him.

Karl stated that he then started pounding on the door, which was eventually opened by Ms. Lombardi, who told Karl to leave.

While he escorted Karl to the attendance office, Karl was visibly upset and was pounding his fist into the palm of his other hand and yelling, "This isn't my fault."

He told Karl to calm down and he had Karl sit down outside Assistant Principal Brian Jesse's office.

He asked Karl if he was ok and Karl said, "Yes."

He stayed with Karl until Kevin Kolasa returned and then he left to do his normal duties.

He did notice that Karl had worn the same Air Force Academy hoodie all week, which was black with blue "AF" on the front.

He thought it was odd that Karl seemed to wear the same clothing all week.

He has been worried that the school administration has not been complying with school district rules to keep everyone safe.

An unrelated incident occurred approximately 2-3 weeks ago, where they found alcohol, drugs and a 6" knife in a student's car in the parking lot.

The student admitted to selling knives and served a 10 day suspension and was then allowed to return to school.

He believes that the student should have been expelled and he thinks this is sending other students a message that they can get into trouble and still come back to school.

He and Christina boycotted and stayed home from work one day in protest.

They met with administration and asked, "How are we supposed to keep students and staff safe?", "How are we supposed to do our jobs?"

They feel their authority has been stripped from them.

I asked Cameron to tell me about today's incident and he stated the following:

Today SRO James Englert sent out an email telling everyone to be aware and cautious as it was near the anniversary of the New Town school shooting.

He and Christina had just finished their normal duties for both lunch breaks and they did a perimeter check.

He walked up the South hallway and into the cafeteria so that he could go eat his lunch in the security office.

He met up with Christina at the microwave in the cafeteria and they both then went to the security office.

He propped open the door to the security office, because it is hot in the office.

Christina then got on the computer and they were eating their lunch.

He heard the first gunshot and paused for a moment.

He then heard a couple more gunshots and then knew it was a gun.

They went out of the office and saw students running north out of the cafeteria towards the mobiles.

He knew something serious was happening, he grabbed his radio and aired, "James, James, lockdown, lockdown."

He and Christina started running down the North hallway and could smell and see smoke.

As they got to the library doors, he told Christina to stop because they didn't see the shooter yet.

They looked into the library and saw the shooter.

He saw the shooter was wearing a black "Air Force" hoodie, so he knew the shooter was Karl.

Karl saw them and Karl then raised his gun at them.

They turned around and ran back down the hallway where they had come from.

They were pounding on classrooms to make sure they were locked and yelling at students to lockdown.

They took the first right into the "Teachers" hallway, which lead them to the "South" hallway.

They turned up the South hallway towards the cafeteria and took the first right.

CR # CT13-44545

They knocked on classrooms in this hallway making sure they locked down.

They then locked themselves in the classroom with the "PACE" students (Special needs students), in the S4-S7 hallway.

He heard one more gunshot while locked down in the PACE classroom.

He stayed in the classroom getting updates on the radio.

He never saw Karl leave the library.

The gun Karl had looked to be a rifle and he saw that Karl had the butt of the rifle to his shoulder and the gun was pointed towards the ground as Karl turned and saw them.

Cameron voluntarily provided a written statement, which I collected and submitted into ACSO records.

Christina Kolk was subsequently interviewed by another ACSO Investigator and then completed a written statement, which I collected and submitted into ACSO records.

Nothing further at this time.