

Initial Police Report

On the morning of February 25, Ms. Miller entered her classroom and discovered her storage room door open, the window inside the storage room also open, and her storage room a mess! She found a broken jar of zinc metal and zinc spilled on the floor, and noticed that several chemicals were missing from the storage closet as well as some pens that were stored on a shelf behind her desk. Ms. Miller was shocked that someone had broken into her back room. She couldn't imagine why anyone would do such a thing. She said that she uses her own money to buy supplies, so she was especially upset about the incident.

Ms. Miller explained that yesterday, February 24, she left O'Leary Junior High School at 3 p.m. with another teacher, Ms. Holmes. They drove into the city to attend a night class. Before leaving school, Ms. Miller made sure to lock the storage room and her classroom. She hasn't opened her classroom windows since October, and as far as she knew, they were all locked.

Ms. Miller immediately thought of two suspects: one of her students, Sierra, whom she overheard saying that she wanted a chemical to eat skin. Ms. Miller knew Sierra was angry at another student, but was she this angry? The other suspect was her ninth-grade clerk, Ashley. Ashley had done a chemical usage inventory for her a few weeks ago, and she would know what Ms. Miller had back there and would also be familiar with her routines. Beyond these two, she didn't really know who might do this. She knew that Ms. Anderson sometimes goes into her storage room to borrow things. Perhaps she took the chemicals.

A few other rooms in the school were also open: the principal's office, Mr. Evan's classroom, and the custodian's room. The custodians, the front office staff, and one teacher, Ms. White, are the only ones who have master keys. It didn't appear that anything had been taken out of those rooms, although the custodians are still taking inventory of their tools. Everything else in the school appeared to be fine. However, a perimeter check revealed a big hole in the ground outside between Ms. Dodd's room (located across from Ms. Miller's room) and the track field. From the appearance of the dirt, it looks like the hole has been there for less than 24 hours.