

Teacher under house arrest following harassment charges

By Brock Weir

A teacher at Dr. G.W. Williams High School is under house arrest this week, charged with criminal harassment stemming from letters sent to fellow teachers.

Charged is Susan Milburn, a resident of Tottenham.

Police confirmed Monday that Ms. Milburn appeared once in court last week and was released to house arrest.

"Our investigation began on May 1 of this year after we received some complaints by staff at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School that they had received multiple letters in the mail from an unknown sender," said Constable Andy Pattenden of the York Regional Police. "Further investigation from the detectives led to the suspect, who is also a teacher at the school.

"On Monday, June 3, at approximately 7 p.m., Susan Milburn was arrested and charged with nine counts of criminal harassment."

Full conditions of her house arrest have not been made public, but Constable Pattenden said she is not allowed to attend the school or communicate with the victims. He said he was unsure how far it extended to "school groups who may frequent the school."

The letters, he added, were strictly between Ms. Milburn towards fellow staff members, and not towards students. The charges have not been proven in court.

She is next due to appear before a judge on Tuesday, July 9.

Dr. G.W. Williams Principal Christopher Hillmer and Aurora-King school board superintendent Peter Adams-Luchowski were contacted, but both declined to comment on the matter.

The York Region District School Board declined to provide comment on the issue.

"For privacy reasons, the Board cannot comment on staff matters," said Christina Choo-Hum with the Board's communications department.

Added Constable Pattenden: "Criminal harassment in its various forms happens relatively frequently, whether it is through mail or email. It is not an uncommon incident."