

Security Advisory Committee - 7/2/18 Meeting Summary of Community Feedback - "Round Robin" Process Activity

"YES" (Points the Community Commends/Supports)

Procedural

- Security during the school day has improved, particularly at the high school.
- ID badges for high school students.
- Good progress with requiring IDs and enforcing sign-in/out process at school buildings.
- New drop off procedure for lunch.
- RAVE App.
- Positive feedback on the plan to have students scan in, using their new ID cards, starting in September.
 - Appreciate the ability to have accurate attendance in the event of an emergency.
- Glad to see more cooperation with the NCPD. Happy to see someone from the Fire Department present.

Communication

- Presentation given at June BOE meeting received a lot of positive feedback.
 - Communication around three buckets was relevant and organized: People/Technology/Operations.

Facilities

- New visitor management check in system. Equipment goes to the next level with photo & ID/license scan.
- Vestibules that create a trap prior to letting someone enter the building.

Staffing

- Addition of Director of Security and availability of a Security Consultant.
- Security staff is standing ground and insisting on ID.
- Security staff is good. They are polite but firm.
- Appreciate the additional security guards put in place at the high school, including the evening shifts.
- Appreciate security guards at field day and presence of security at BravesFest.

Mental Health

- Administration has been responsive to situations of conflict/bullying.

General Comments

- Appreciate the willingness to invite the community in to the process.
- The Security Advisory Committee is an important first step
- Agree with the four key components of the committee's charge in relation to the category of School Security and Safety.

“AND” (Points Raised by Some Attendees for the District to Consider)

Procedural

- The community would like to see more security at the high school level. One parent's perception is that it is more secure at elementary and middle school buildings.
- After-hours security needs to be tightened.
 - It may have to be less convenient for people. For example, location of PTA meetings may need to change, and cycle of meetings should not be predictable.
- For after-hours facilities use, carbon paper is still being used. Need to review facilities use and develop an updated procedure.
- Everything taking place outdoors needs to be evaluated (recess, school events). We need to secure the perimeter for all events.
- Parents had questions regarding the lock down at the High School. The lengthy response time from the police is not acceptable.
- It was suggested that teachers scan to get out of the building just like they do when they come in. The idea is that if a student opens a back door, an alarm would sound, so that they can't easily leave.
- Middle School identification badges should be explored.
- More active shooter drills.
- Police and Fire Department should respond to drills.
- The idea of Central Station monitoring for later hours was brought up by the representative from the Syosset FD.
- Unannounced people should test the system by trying to see if they can get by Security.

Communication

- District communications must be looked at.
- Parents should have a less formal way to weigh in on security procedures. There should be two-way communication in policy development.
- There should be more frequent communication.
- Need to increase awareness among everyone. “See something, say something” needs to be communicated.
 - With “see something say something” being emphasized, there is a concern that people may think they are vigilantes. We would need cultural diversity sensitivity.

- Parents want to know what is the real time response and order of events in an emergency including the involvement of the authorities (example: HS Lockdown).
- Parents want to know what safety protocols are in place in the case of an emergency.
- More information on NCPD involvement (how frequently they visits schools, what their role is, etc.).
- Need to manage what the community knows comprehensively and thoroughly.
 - Social Media and gossip can derail clear communication and dissemination of accurate information.
- Need strengthened communication with regard to the Committee's charge.
- Suggestion for the building PTAs to form a sub-committee on Security and be responsible for reporting directly at PTA meetings (example: HS Lockdown).
- Information presented at June BOE meeting should be shared district-wide at the first PTA meeting and during Open House presentations.
- Need clear communication on protocols when an incident arises.
- Text alert system for students like colleges utilize.
- Parent of a high school student said child was told the event in the spring was only a drill.

Facilities

- Many doors are unsecured putting us at risk. There should be alerts if doors are left open.
- All doors need to be secured, including secondary/perimeter doors. There should be ID card access on all doors.
- Due to the shortage of qualified trained security professionals, we also need to rely on technology, such as locking mechanisms, etc.
- More cameras should be added inside and out. Every hallway should have one.
- A group expressed support of metal detectors.
 - If metal detectors are a "no", the group wants the District to consider having guards with a metal detecting wand to help find weapons.
- Using the Woodbury School to house administration, etc. should be explored.
- At certain elementary schools, classroom windows face major roads which is a risk.

Staffing

- The security guards shouldn't have a routine that can be observed.
- Could parents act as auxiliary police? They could work in concert with school and security personnel and patrol schools.
- We should leverage Fire Dept. and Police Dept., especially at large gatherings.
- More coordination with Fire Department in addition to NCPD.
- All security guards hired should be ex-law enforcement officers. Syosset has the resources and should hire police officers.
- School resource officers.
- More information needed on the training that staff receives on active shooter protocols.

- One group wants the District to strongly consider armed guards.
- More people at the front door during AM drop-off.

Mental Health

- Mental health curriculum mandates: what is being done?
- What is in place already to support children in crisis?
- Need to monitor & flag “trouble kids”.
- Perception problem with bullying (what is it and what is it not).
- There should be a mental health seminar for how to recognize mental health issues.
 - There are NYS, Nassau County resources to support mental health. Legislator Siela Bynoe has made some resources available.

Social Media Monitoring/Reporting

- We should have social media monitoring.
- Anonymous Alerts app is used at another district. Kids watch a video, then get the app where they can report issues. Staff gets alerts when anything is reported.
- Anonymous is the key word. Kids are aware of the “trouble kids” but are afraid report them, so reporting mechanism needs to be anonymous.
- More parents should be involved and up-to-date on new social media outlets, such as Reddit. District should support parents in having an awareness of what the latest trends in social media are.

General Comments

- A lot of districts are ahead of SCSD with security measures. Plans are great but parents want to see everything complete.
- A parent does not think there is enough being done to prevent a school shooting or have an immediate response if there was one.
- Happy about Committee formation but wishes it was started 2 years ago.
- Woodbury feedback: Why is this on the agenda? Resident doesn’t understand what this has to do with security.
- How are we preparing children? What is the best way to prepare and not frighten children?
- Report should be given to the Board prior to December of 2018.