



SAFE SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL – MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2024

Meeting attendees: Vern Bock, Maram Cadwell, Ron Crowe, Dawn Harman, Anna Houseworth, Denise Huebner, Douglass Kastens, Kat Meints, Kim Mercer, Dolores Robison, Inmar Romero, Jennifer Wall, Aurora Hurtado, Justin Wilk, Rod Hall, Jennifer Donnelly, and Neville Welch.

Members Absent: Zulma Santos, Tarrazzia Martin, and Heather Martinsen

Call to order – 6:30 p.m. by Maram (missing two members; all above present by 6:34 p.m.)

Parent who wanted to speak: Cheryl Thompson spoke about her 8th grade student's safety at MS: bullying mainly in PE and spoke to parents; but this year feel being targeted because of race and don't think school is being proactive – being called gringo by Hispanic kids; been happening since 6th grade; never been called by given name; summarized experiences this fall, including two incidents in HPE; son went to counselor and mom spoke to counselor; more incidents followed; Mr. Bock noted time was up and said he'd make sure school followed up.

Mr. Bock took roll.

Officer Elections

- Mr. Bock shared implications of division by-laws which stipulate officers must be board-appointed members.
- Mr. Welch's history/biography as a candidate for Vice-Chair was shared. Mr. Wilk shared his thoughts about Mr. Welch. Unanimously voted to be Vice-Chair. Mr. Welch thanked the group noting he takes his roles seriously and looks forward to helping lead the organization.

Review and Approval of Oct. Meeting Minutes

- Chair asked we review minutes.
- Douglass Kastens noted spelling of his name was incorrect.
- Mr. Welch made motion to approve minutes with name correction, Mr. Kastens seconded. All approved minutes.

Bylaws Adoption

- Chair asked we review the by-laws.
- Mr. Bock noted standard across all division committees. He explained we don't have flexibility in by-laws, so took the work the group did last year and copied purpose and responsibilities into current document.



- Mr. Kastens made motion to approve the by-laws as proposed; Mr. Welch seconded; all approved. By-laws adopted.

PWCS School Safety Audit Summary and Threat Assessment Survey Data

- Chair invited Mr. Crowe to share the summary.
- Mr. Bock thanked Mr. Crowe and team for putting information together and reminded everyone feedback is welcome as we work to improve systems and processes.
- **SCHOOL SECURITY:** The information shared based on administrator (97 principals – number of principals responding to each was noted on each slide) feedback included School Resource Officers (SROs) – role, partnership with, taken DCJS SRO and School Administrator Course, benefits of full vs part time, PD from which SROs would most benefit, daily duties, Crisis Management Plan (CMP) topics, situations which activated CMP during 2023-24 school year, Narcan training/access (questions about this – knowing who in the building has been trained, access given controlled substance, ensuring principal knows who in building is trained and has access, regulation being revisited, etc. – ***noted this is something we need to revisit and Ms. Huebner said their dept can come to share more***), security strategies in place in 2023-24, technology used (Mr. Bock noted in CIP this year is to update all announcement systems and Mr. Crowe noted other things they are looking into involving interactive boards, re-unification system, clear back-packs, etc.), accommodations for those with disabilities during drills (question about training and if questions were about students/staff)
- **THREAT ASSESSMENT:** Ms. Robison was invited to share data on threat assessment. Did over 800 last year (866). Noted every school has a team and who serves on the team. The information covered was about training for staff. Training is in Canvas – Foundations of – go module by module. Participants must answer questions, and we do give feedback. Right now, 97% are completed. This year added optional training; five courses that are scenario-based 1-hour sessions (in Pre-K – 5, interviews, recognizing and responding to aberrant behavior, level of concern, and discipline). Break out into groups to discuss scenarios and then brought back as a group to discuss. Had groups over 100 and positive feedback; criticism is that 1 hour is not enough time. They also do on-site school visits. Did all but one high school in MP 1 and went to five middle schools. The goal of the first visit is to cover level setting and team building (working well, barriers, support needed); the second visit is about Corrective Guidance (review cases and do in context of after-action reports). Also have office hours/open forum so available to answer questions and doing a book study on Trigger Points by Mark Follman. Mr. Romero thanked the team for ongoing support/quarterly meetings which keeps communication flowing. Mr. Hall asked



about staff support – there are three on the team. Mrs. Huebner also noted trying to expand capacity.

- Ms. Cadwell asked questions about survey regarding varying numbers of responses – structure of survey and branching within survey discussed; question about terminology differences which it was previously noted may have influenced responses; question about criterion for SRO (history, training, etc.); explained three various roles and differences in experience/training the three roles – (School Resource office) SRO, CSO and SSO;
- For the next meeting, Mr. Bock would like to put together what is done across the division regarding security/safety as there are so many layers/efforts. He also asked group to understand metrics/data that are collected each month and presented to executive cabinet – 1000s of security touchpoints. From that, we may better be able to figure out what we'd like to address.

Other topics/announcements:

- Mr. Bock also noted that he runs agenda by chair and will now include vice-chair prior to meeting to set agenda. Mr. Welch suggested resources be sent to the group earlier so we can be best prepared.
- Mr. Bock recognized Ms. Hurtado as it will be her last meeting. She shared where members can find differences in security roles.
- Youth Mental Health First Aid training at BDHS held for parents (free); partnership with PW Community Services Board via other SSAC member Heather Martinsen.

Adjournment

Mr. Hall made motion to adjourn, Mr. Kastens seconded; approved. Chair adjourned meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, January 6 (snow date is Monday, January 13)