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## Parent Advisory Committee

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February 26, 2019  
Group Notes

### Attendees:

School system staff included: Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Amy Hollstein, Deputy Superintendent; Jason Stoddard, Director of School Safety and Security; Angel Willett, Executive Assistant

Twenty-five parents representing twenty-six schools, and four staff members attended the February 26 Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting.

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## Welcome and Greetings

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Deputy Superintendent, Amy Hollstein opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and sharing how much she values feedback from the Parent Advisory Committee. She recognized staff in attendance, gave an overview of the meeting agenda, and introduced the group activity.

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## Group Discussion and Activity

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### GROUP DISCUSSION:

The dialogue centered on how inaccurate and inflammatory information is shared on social media platforms. As a community, how can we gain control over this? Perhaps as a school district, we disband the BYOD program and return to NO devices in our schools.

Group comments, included:

- Parents and students must be accountable
- Parents should be able to access their child's phone, and vice versa
- How do parents navigate social media activities
- Kids will always circumvent what is in place
- Fake social media accounts are created and used by our children – the new fake IDs
- Communicate with your child. Engage your child. Know what is going on
- **You have one shot to raise your kids!**
- Listening tools – the technology is not reliable and works with open accounts
- Be open and honest with your kids
- When an incident occurs on campus, students will post on a variety of social media platforms about the incident. The posts are often false, erroneous, and speculative, which can cause unsafe or unhelpful responses

*(To maintain authenticity of the committee's feedback, comments reflect the writer's language with minimal editing.)*

Charles County Public Schools is a large organization committed to sharing accurate information. When there is an allegation or incident, we must adhere to confidentiality. People are entitled to due process and often the complaints are unfounded.

In certain cases, investigations involve the Sheriff's Office and/or Child Protective Services. When this occurs, the investigation process is even more lengthy. CCPS is subservient to those organizations that complete the investigation. The release of premature information could impede the investigation.

### **GROUP ACTIVITY:**

For the group activity, parents worked in clusters to answer guided questions related to safety and security in our schools. After which, the groups shared out.

1. How can parents contribute to school safety and security as it relates to reporting or sharing information?
  - *See something, say something box*
  - *Be aware of people in the building who shouldn't be there*
2. How can parents contribute to school safety and security when they visit schools?
  - *Follow school rules (communicate the rules consistently, clearly and often, etc.)*
  - *Build relationships with administrators (volunteering)*

**Additional comment:** *Parents took for granted that they can walk into the schools.*

3. How can parents contribute to school safety and security as a PTO/PTSO member?
  - *Parents need to be involved and see day-to-day life at school*
  - *Educate importance and value of parent/volunteer background check*
  - *Parents need to stop and think before reacting and spreading drama/information/social media*

**Additional comments:** *There are not a lot of volunteers. The reaction to parents not taking this seriously is other parents have to step up.*

Parents complain, but don't attend safety events. For example, three people attended a recent high school safety information event; the principal was one of the three people who attended. At another high school presentation, six parents showed up. This is a problem. How do you get parents involved?

4. How can parents contribute to school safety and security through their relationships with their children?
  - *Educate students and families*
  - *Keep lines of communication open*
  - *See Something Say Something*

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**Additional comments:** *Kids should be able to speak to their parents without fear of retribution. Apply parental controls on phones.*

5. What information related to school safety and security do parents need from Charles County Public Schools?
- *HOAs that meet often (neighborhood) should be aware of school procedures and policies*
  - *CCPS and Safety/Security to all CCPS employees and families ... procedures and policy*
    - *Phone calls*
    - *Emails*
  - *Regularly and probably every quarter to reinforce*
  - *Do not let anyone in (school/buildings) behind you, etc.*
  - *Explain the process of investigations to community (notice) when school situations occur*
    - *Bullying*
    - *Behavior*
  - *ID for students should be linked to an app*

**Additional comments:** *Be engaged with the kids (whole experience). Apps are doing bad things and kids don't quite understand. They do not regenerate like a video game.*

*Thoroughly explain the investigation process. What happens in cases of bullying, inappropriate actions by staff members, school threats, etc.*

6. How can parents contribute to school safety and security with respect to social media use?
- *Accountability for parents/students*
    - *Exploring apps that allow you to check activity*
    - *Ensuring we engage with our children daily regarding their lives*
    - *Education on how to navigate social media safely*
    - *Knowing your parent population*

Parents continued their discussion on the use of social media platforms to share false information. Feedback included:

Mind public media posts + triangulate

- Threat
- deepening of anger and depressive posts
- connection to others

Parents – it starts at home

Workshops for students on social media etiquette

- elementary to high school
- upside and downside of usage

Workshops for parents on social media monitoring and boundaries

- elementary to high school

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Put information on CCPS website

- what to look out for
- current concerns

Social Media listening tools

- TalkWalk

Awareness is key! Ask questions

It starts at HOME! Parents need to be accountable.

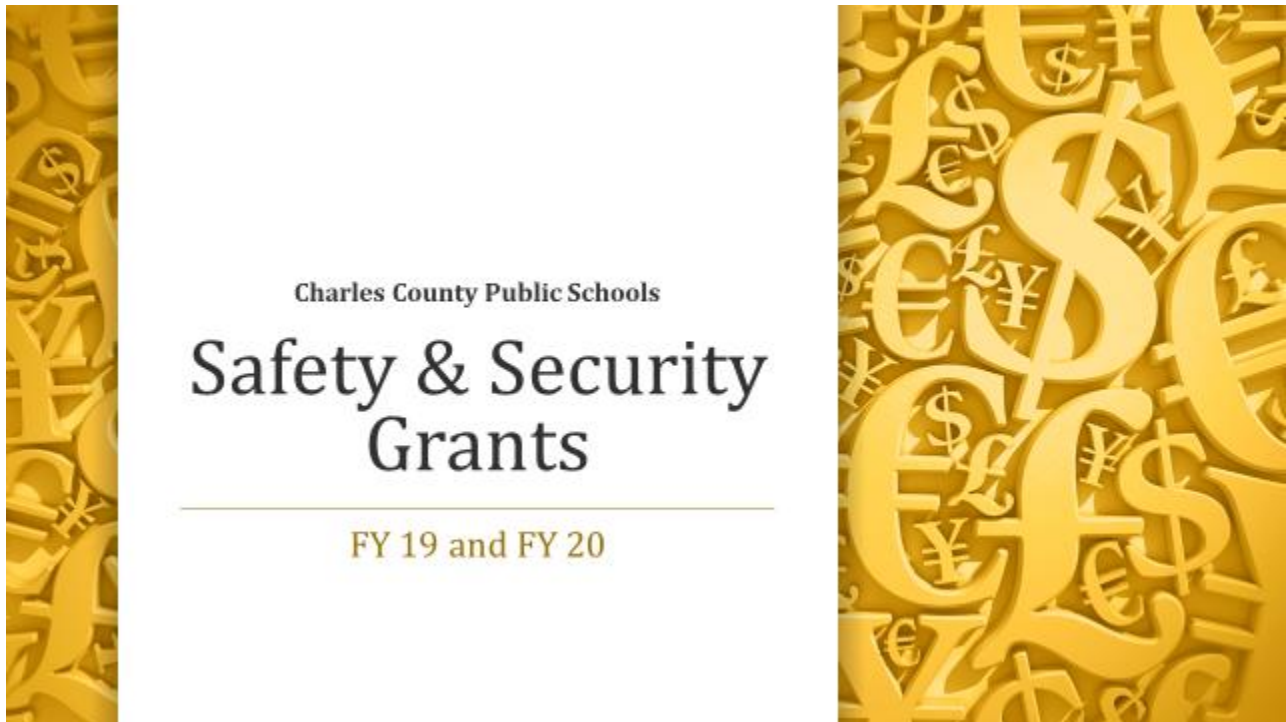
Parents are always in a reactive mode.

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### Safety & Security Grants and Anonymous Threat Assessments

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Jason Stoddard, Director of Safety and Security



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## Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) Safe Schools Grant/ Approved

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- \$10.6 million statewide
- Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) allotted \$374,576
  - \$133,084 Expansion of Tri- County Youth Services mental health services
  - \$61,501 Student ID cards and technology
  - \$65,000 Expansion of Restorative Practice training
  - \$24,000 Bus cameras (11)
  - \$20,440 Marketing and outreach materials
  - \$20,000 School Resource Officer (SRO) professional development
  - \$9,400 Alert US software for emergency notifications
  - \$15,000 Staff identification card program
  - \$16,500 Informacast VIOP intercom system
  - \$10,000 Maryland State Police school bus enforcement

## Heroin & Opioid Policy Grant/ Approved

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- \$3 million statewide
- CCPS allotment \$90,270
  - \$20,000 Outreach, printing, and marketing
  - \$1,000 NARCAN trainer kits
  - \$30,000 Anti-opioid addiction speaker
  - \$7,000 Enhancement to middle and high school health curriculum
  - \$4,725 SRO vehicle wraps
  - \$5,250 Pop-sign displays
  - \$10,000 HOPE Trailer
  - \$12,295 Stipend and substitute coverage for staff professional development on addiction

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## School Safety Survey/ Pending

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- \$3 million statewide
- CCPS allotment \$66,300
  - \$27,100 SRO overtime to complete threat assessments
  - \$8,300 Tablets and related hardware
  - \$21,600 Handheld 2-D floor plan mapping devices
  - \$6,800 SRO overtime to complete floor plan update
  - \$2,500 Office and presentation supplies

## Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) School Safety Grant/ Pending

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- \$10 million statewide
- CCPS allotment \$292,000/ \$186,000 match total project = \$478,000
  - Public safety radios
  - Door locks and hardware
  - Window film

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## FY 19 Total Grant Funding

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• MCSS School Safety Grant	\$374,576
• Heroin/Opioid Grant	\$90,270
• Threat Assessment and Survey	\$66,300
• IAC	\$478,000
	\$1,009,146

\$240,379 expansion/enhancement to mental health services

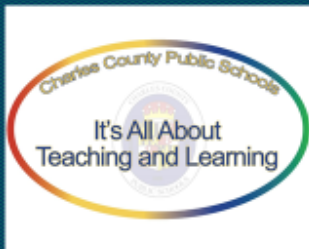
\$93,175 for Maryland State Police/Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and SRO enhancements

## Future funding sources

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- Request for proposals (RFP) for "Stop the Bleed" kits = \$70,000
- Request for \$125,000 of end-of-year funding for Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building upgrades
- MCSS Safe School Grant, proposed \$10.6 million statewide funding for FY20
- \$10 million statewide fund to expand SRO coverage proposed in FY20
- IAC School Safety Grant fully funded for FY20
- Possible DOJ/COPS STOP School Violence Prevention Grant < \$500,000

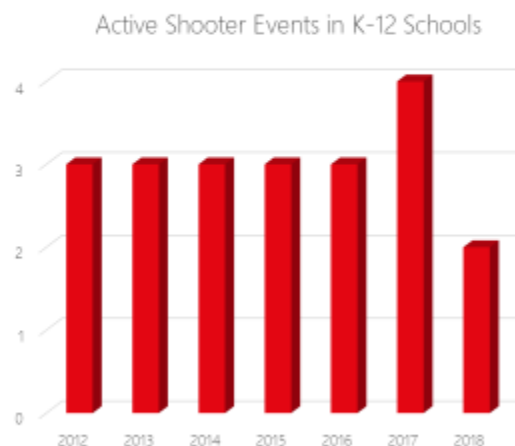




# Anonymous Threat Assessments

## Foundational Information

- Threats to schools are not new
- Active shooters at schools are RARE (lottery and lightning)
- Crime is down and has been since 1995
- Schools are the safest place for your children day in and day out
- Recent events and the power of the media

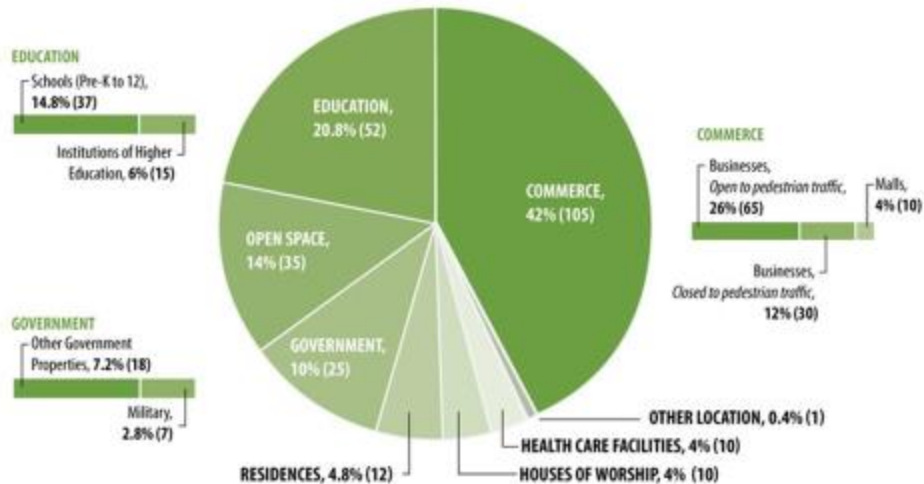


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# What does this tell us?

**Quick Look:** 250 Active Shooter Incidents in the United States From 2000 to 2017  
**Location Categories**



FBI 2000-2017 active shooter events

## Determining "Credibility" of Anonymous Threats.



The threat is never zero. However, the existence of a non-specific or general statement of threat DOES NOT increase the probability of violence by itself.

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## Defining Likelihood/ Probability

UNCLASSIFIED

<i>Terms of Likelihood</i>	Almost No Chance	Very Unlikely	Unlikely	Roughly Even Chance	Likely	Very Likely	Almost Certain(ly)
<i>Terms of Probability</i>	Remote	Highly Improbable	Improbable (Improbably)	Roughly Even Odds	Probable (Probably)	Highly Probable	Nearly Certain
	1-5%	5-20%	20-45%	45-55%	55-80%	80-95%	95-99%

## Response

- Goals
    - Student safety is our #1 concern. Without it, no learning can take place
    - Keeping students safe and avoid placing them in unsafe situations
    - Achieving a **balanced** response
  - School
    - Assist in investigation
    - Letters, emails, school messenger communications
    - Hall restrictions/ cancelling events
    - Meeting and briefings with staff, students, and parents
  - Police
    - Investigation/charges
    - Increase SRO coverage
    - Increase patrol visibility
- Closing school or substantially changing school operations is the last resort

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# What We Know!

- Not one school attack has initiated with a non-specific threat
- Threats feed upon themselves and spread like a virus
- School attacks are not spontaneous
- These events cause stress, anxiety, and can lead to trauma
- All threats are taken seriously and investigated thoroughly
- Investigation DOES NOT EQUAL credibility
- Response DOES NOT EQUAL credibility

## What Can You Do?



*(To maintain authenticity of the committee's feedback, comments reflect the writer's language with minimal editing.)*

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#### Additional Comments \* Reminders

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Currently three schools are piloting the student ID card program. Consider expanding ways to use the student identification cards.

Parents expressed their appreciation for how receptive the administrators are to the Parent Advisory Committee members.

Consider the timing of parent notifications. Inform parents of incidents involving their child prior to an alert going out thru school messenger.

Make available resources that explain the investigation processes, timelines, agencies involved, etc. Post the process on the CCPS website, make available in a pamphlet format, share electronically, etc.

Many students go home alone. Kids need to be educated on human sex trafficking.

The spring PAC meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 30 at 5:30 p.m. will include a presentation on the concerns of Fentanyl and the HOPE trailer. Please plan to attend.

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