

WE are Lakota

Community Conversation – School Safety

Oct. 16, 2018

Review by Superintendent Matthew Miller of what's already being done:

- Safety and security are always a top priority.
- There will be School Resource Officers at every campus. (Some campuses have more than one school, e.g., Liberty JS and Woodland).
- We have a good relationship with both township and county law enforcement, and with the fire departments.
- We're using a new system called Raptor, that does quick background checks on visitors. If there's a concern people are notified, and it's handled on a case-by-case basis.
- There's a very robust reunification app through Raptor.
- We also use the Safer Ohio Tip Line. It's already been used this year.
- We have another 24-hour tip line that the DPC has helped with.
- Hope Squad – peer to peer suicide remediation, 15 peers at every high school grade level. Looking to put it in junior high as well.
- Mindpeace started last year – more support for kids.
- Safety drills.
- ALICE program (responding to active threat)
- Unannounced drug searches
- Be The Difference
- Fuse
- Anti-bullying
- E+R=O (Event + Response = Outcome)
- SENSE (Social and Emotional Needs Supports for Education)

How can we make schools safe? What concerns do you have about school safety? (Except for arming teachers...will discuss that next)

After school, buildings are unlocked, people could be walking around.

How many cameras are in school? Who is monitoring the video?

Once someone is in the outside door, is there a second door?

At some schools, you have to be buzzed to be in main office, but there's room in between where you could go anywhere. The office staff wouldn't be able to stop someone.

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How many video cameras exist on a campus? We don't need to know number, but are there more than just at the entrance? (Reply: the number would be surprising to you.)

Are we fully utilizing all the technologies that are available?

Teachers should be closer to entrances at dismissal. They know their kids and can spot suspicious things going on.

Lakota has jump-started on these issues compared to other districts, with a holistic approach.

There's a lot of thought about parent and staff training, how to watch for behavioral issues, what we should be doing or doing more of.

Looking for changes or red flags.

Is staff empowered to be willing to say, "Wait here until someone else comes to help evaluate this situation?"

As many things as are in place, they're only as good as the follow-through...takes communication and training.

Security on after-school programs....no check-in check-out program

Staff and parent training – sometimes they're reluctant to report something that looks odd...could be a red flag for an event for some type of unwanted behavior.

What's the role of students?

Peers watching peers

Anything that's a red flag or suspicious behavior.

Building that culture where we have to watch each other.

"Some of it's on us." (the kids)

Building a school culture that safety is always there – even when not at school.

Safety is a community culture.

Great differences in culture...understanding can avoid some situations.

Have to be more culturally competent and understand our implicit biases.

Understanding culture in terms of what a particular school is like...getting to know each other as people...even if skin color is different

The kid in (Parkland) Fla. was having problems...everyone knew...nobody did anything about it.

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Praise for the district for the first few days of school this year...the time spent building relationships.

We as a PTA pay the SRO to come to events in the evening...pay four hours even if event is two hours.

Discussion of arming teachers

Board member clarified – District will not arm teachers. Actual issue is, can teachers who have a concealed carry permit have their personal weapon while at school?

Arguments for permitting staff to have concealed-carry:

Schools are a soft target, once they're in, they're in.

If they think there are guns, they'll be less likely to (try something).

Loss of life that happens before police arrive.

The ability of citizens to carry, if well-trained, provide for your own safety.

If we're denying right to carry to teachers, we're denying their 2nd Amendment rights

Would we be denying 18-year-olds their rights?

The law says school district personnel (not students).

Do you have ability to regulate specific requirements (for the person with the CCW)?
How much training, etc.

It wouldn't allow anyone with a CCW...just staff.

You're denying your staff on whether they'll go home to their family, denying them an option for their own safety

By having more of a presence that it's not a gun-free zone, instead of advertising that it's a gun-free zone, that makes it more of a softer target

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Arguments against:

We're not aware of any evidence that it would be effective.

Would more guns mean more lives saved or more lives taken?

What will happen when police come in to active situation? Are they going to shoot a teacher?

As a quick fix maybe not the best fix...maybe there are better solutions.

If police are able to hit targets only a certain percentage of the time, do we really expect a teacher with a few hours training to hit their target?

Is it possible to train a lay person well enough?

Is training the teacher a one-shot deal...is there any recertification?

People who are trained well miss...less training will have less accuracy...have to accept collateral damage.

If a teacher is off pursuing a shooter, who is protecting the students they've left behind?

If carrying a gun, it could be accessible to students.

Kids take their parents' gun at home and parents don't even know it. Same concern at school.

In 250 active shooter incidents, have been seven successful armed interventions, 22 successful unarmed interventions.

Would like to consider arming every teacher with bear spray...not a joke...same as in grizzly bear area...chance of hitting with a gun is low...chance with a spray is high.

When Sheriff Jones offered free training for teachers, whatever happened?

All major teacher organizations are against it.

As a student...it's kind of unnerving knowing your teacher has a gun.

Puts a divide between students and adults.

Does liability of school district increase? Is that reflected in higher taxes?

Who pays for training and how to monitor?

Students will be curious about guns and that's a slippery slope.

There has to be a way to keep them out of kids' hands.

Have safes that have biometric locks.

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Two different ideas out there – the teacher carrying gun, and the teacher has access to gun.

How do we know a teacher who has a gun won't use it (on someone who's not an active shooter)?

A teacher says she is very uncomfortable with putting her life on the line.