

Minutes of the Safe Schools Committee
Regional School District 14
www.ctreg14.org October 25, 2019

The Safe Schools Committee met on Friday, October 25, 2019 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 67 Washington Ave, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were committee members Maryanne Van Aken, Mike Devine and Carol Ann Brown. Also present were Alyce Misuraca, Andrew Komar, Bill Nemec, Mike Molzon, Officer Marsh, Office D'Elia, Sergeant Roden, Wayne McAllister, Dr. Olzacki, and BOE clerk Karen Daley.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Van Aken at 12:05 pm.

NHS safety update from SLAM – Amy from SLAM will come to the meeting on the 4th Friday of November (not the last Friday because of Thanksgiving). She will give the update then. Dr. O was concerned about the VoAg door locking issue. Pam Sordi will look into the timing of the locking of the door between the regular building and the VoAg building.

Camera failure alert update – Mr. Pagano was unable to attend but did send a report that all cameras are on email notification at this time. If cameras go down or come up Mr. Pagano receives an email. Administrators report that the cameras seem to be working well. NHS camera completion is still in progress with the completion of the renovation. Ms. Misuraca from BES is concerned about the placement of the outside cameras and would like to make sure she is getting good coverage. Perhaps shifting of a camera as well as a light that is motion activated which could be pointed at the building may resolve the issue. Mr. McAllister will look into getting a cost for better lighting and additional / updated cameras at BES. He will report at the November meeting with his findings.

Emergency response meeting date – A meeting needs to be arranged to go over the emergency response plans for each school. Ms. Morgan will work to determine the date.

Alert Us presentation at Region 12– Ms. Van Aken reported back on the visit to Region 12 to view the Alert Us software. The system accesses all technology in the building to display the alert and turns on devices even if they are in the off position. The cost for the system is \$3,000 to start but the IT requirements are many, it will be labor intensive and costly in man hours to set up. Dr. O will try to get a solid number on the cost of set up and technical support. The building administrators were wondering how this all works and if it is really needed. The concern is staying compliant with the states mandate regarding the notification of emergencies to hearing impaired students. Sergeant Roden understands the mandate to mean that we need a plan in place for hearing impaired or visually impaired students which can be achieved in some other way such as assigning a staff member to students in the event of an emergency. An additional concern is that if a notification is sent to all students it could create chaos that makes handling the emergency more difficult. The consensus of the group is that this technology is not needed at this time. Maryanne Van Aken would like to explore how to boost cell signals in our buildings with Verizon since they are the carrier for the administrator's cell phones. It is well known that in emergency situations communication is key so this should be looked into.

DARE program - Region 12 has decided to no longer use the DARE program for 5th grade as they felt it was not keeping up with current issues and have chosen to create a program of their own. Region 14 has added in vaping to the DARE program as it is a concern and other topics

can be added as well if the district feels the needs arise. It is helpful to stay with the known program so parents do not question the teaching and topics. Officer D'Elia supports staying with the DARE program rather than trying to create something on their own and to look into offering more through the DARE program and to consider adding in an 8th grade curriculum. Ms. Misuraca feels like it would be better to continue in 6th grade rather than waiting until 8th grade. Mr. Nemecek reports that the Heath Curriculum does cover some topics that are part of the DARE program so the teaching doesn't end at 6th grade, it just becomes part of the Health curriculum. Students are actually looking for a continuance of this program and they enjoy having the SRO's in the classroom teaching these topics. The next step is to review the health curriculum and look at the DARE curriculum to see what pieces can possibly be added into it. The DARE curriculum must be taught by a DARE instructor and it has been found that students tend to be more attentive when a Police Officer is speaking. Parents have expressed that they would like to see it in the later years when students are really beginning to make the decisions on the topics being covered. The group would like to see DARE topics integrated into the health curriculum moving forward.

School safety plan – The report is due November 1st. Wayne McAllister said that it is ready to go.

Release of public information – No one is entitled to arrest information of juveniles. Sergeant Roden is concerned about social media and the incorrect information being spread. He is not sure how to correct lies that are spread on social media. People do have the right to free speech but it is important to figure out how to address the issue of false information being posted on social media. The committee would like a group statement from the Police and the Region addressing the exact lie that was posted on social media to correct the record of the situation. Dr. Olzacki will make sure it is put in Voices and Waterbury Republican as a press release. The group acknowledges that we need to find a way to get the public to trust that the information we are giving is the only information they should be relying on. The district should consider a community conversation to address children and adults on social media.

Emergency phones for each building – Ms. Morgan will give an update on this at the next meeting.

SRO MOU – There have been incremental pay increases since the SRO program began. The \$55,000 that is currently written needs to be increased in order to continue the program. The Board and Towns need to review. SRO's will come back with a number and get back to Dr. Olzacki. Numbers will be brought to the committee at the next meeting. Members have requested a copy of the MOU and the addendum to review the job descriptions.

Public Comment – none

Other Business – Conversation regarding background checks occurred to go over how the process works. Once the check is complete it is put in a tracking sheet that can be viewed by select Region 14 staff. Generally, they are done on the 1st and 15th of the month. They can be rushed through but there does need to be time for turn around. RAPTOR only does the sex offender check, not the full background check. There was discussion on possibly suggesting to parents to do the volunteer background check at the start of the school year.

Film to cover the glass to the SRO, Conference Room and Social Workers Office at NHS to create a one-way vision is being explored.

Hearing no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Daley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Daley
Regional School District 14 Board Clerk

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Karen Daley, Board Clerk,
10/29/2019.