

Minutes of the Ad hoc Safety Committee  
Regional School District 14 [www.ctreg.org](http://www.ctreg.org)  
January 23, 2015

A meeting of the Ad hoc Safety Committee was held on Friday, January 23, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were committee members Maryanne Van Aken, Anna Cutaia-Leonard, Mike Devine, Janet Morgan, Sgt. Joe Roden, Offr. Cono D'Elia, Paul Ciotti, Alice Jones, Bill Nemec, and Deb Carlton. Also, Eileen Budrewicz was in attendance for the first agenda item.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Van Aken at 12:00 pm.

The committee discussed the following:

1. Background check update/discussion

Sgt. Roden reported 216 volunteers have been background checked to date and the list is updated regularly. Dr. Cutaia-Leonard initiated a discussion of why the district decided to begin doing checks, and also asked for the distinction between a visitor and a volunteer. Much discussion followed on those topics.

Sgt. Roden stressed due diligence in clearing volunteers who are with our kids; identifying those with criminal records; and allowing safety measures for those working with kids. He felt, and Officer D'Elia agreed, that visitors are distinguishable because they are in the buildings under a more controlled environment, such as guest readers. Some committee members expressed wanting to move toward a time when anyone gaining access to the schools gets checked, including vendors, etc., and that for now we are focusing on parent/community volunteers. This information would be updated annually. Some committee members felt visitors should be in the presence of an escort and never alone.

The conclusion reached was that the leadership team will discuss categories of events where background checks will be needed, and to clarify the language in the policy between volunteers and visitors/guests.

2. Camera Installation Status

Mr. Ciotti reported that the reps from Tyco were here today and did the perimeter at BES. They will provide proposals next Friday. Mr. Devine felt the process was dragging out too long, too many delays, and we need to be moved up in the pecking order. Asked what the delays are attributed to, Mr. Ciotti said one of their reps has had health issues, but that he will expedite the process with Mr. McAllister on Monday. Sgt. Roden pointed out that the grant needs to be closed out by June. Ms. Morgan felt we may need to look to another vendor if this one can't get the work done.

3. Long Term Planning/Budget Safety Concerns

Dr. Cutaia-Leonard indicated she is working on the numbers and will have more information next month on this topic.

4. Anonymous Alerts System

Mr. Ciotti showed a short video from a company offering anonymous bullying reporting service, currently utilized by 1500 schools throughout the state. It is a student reporting system that can be

used with any web device. The committee discussed how to handle pranks; that punishing pranksters would show that the system is not really anonymous; and issues related to response time, who receives emails/texts; and how the system could provide clues to behaviors. There was discussion that it could create false alarms, create a lot of work for the people fielding the info, and potentially lead to a lot of dead end chases. There was discussion about what, if any, problems we currently have that this program will solve.

It was decided we would contact schools who are using the system.

Under other business, the committee discussed an 8 hour mental health first aid training offered through Jen DeWitt with CNVRAC.

Mr. Nemecek spoke about the use of cones in the NHS drop off circle. The school community is getting used to it; however, he is trying to finagle a way to control the volume of traffic created as cars are shooed away from both the circle and the road at dismissal – there is nowhere to shoo them to.

Next meeting will be held at noon on 2/27/15.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryanne Van Aken

Maryanne Van Aken, Chair  
Ad hoc Safety Committee  
Regional School District 14 Board of Education