

Minutes of the Ad hoc Safety Committee
Regional School District 14 www.ctreg.org
February 28, 2014

A meeting of the Ad hoc Safety Committee was held on Friday, February 28, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Committee Chair Maryanne Van Aken, and committee members Wayne McAllister, Mike Devine, Mike Molzon, Sgt. Joe Roden, Offr. Cono D'Elia, Janet Morgan, and Paul Ciotti (1:00 pm). Also, Andy O'Brien, Bill Nemec, Angelo Casagrande, and BoE clerk Deb Carlton
The meeting was called to order by Ms. Van Aken at 12:00 pm.

The committee discussed the following:

1. Mr. Casagrande, the teachers' union president, had been invited to attend the meeting to voice concerns about building access at NHS. There are two teachers with handicapping conditions for whom he would like access through the door near the music area, where there is a handicap parking spot. Mr. Goeler had indicated to him that a swipe card would be put in, and that keys would be provided to those teachers until the swipe care was installed, but it is three month later and he is still waiting for this.

Ms. Van Aken asked Mr. Molzon to confirm that we are ADA compliant with the handicap access currently provided, and was told we are. She noted that while all doors are exits, not all doors are entrances and the ones being utilized are those we can best keep an eye on. This door is not one that the committee is interested in people having access to at this time. Sgt. Roden agreed.

Mr. Casagrande asked whether it is a money or safety issue, and whether that door will ever be accessible for staff. Ms. Van Aken indicated that, on the list of priorities, access control for that door is well down the road, after security cameras and other safety enhancements. Sgt. Roden agreed, adding that the more entrances in a building, the better the chance of someone slipping in and the less secure it is. Mr. Casagrande thanked the committee for its time. He understands the situation better now and had not realized that this issue was being discussed. He commented that lack of communication is a problem.

2. Update on Safety Plan: Ms. Morgan explained that the plan includes a number of appendices and asked who she should approach to help with each of them, in the interest of time. For sections such as staff skills inventory, emergency contacts, teacher packets, and school based incident command systems, it was suggested that building principals be contacted. For school maps, resource inventories, and names of contractors, Mr. Molzon will assist. School offices will supply phone tree info, central office will provide master calendar and contact info for the safety committee, Mr. McAllister will supply district incident command system information, Mr. Goeler will be in charge of a letter to parents and providing a listing of consultants, custodians will be contacted regarding building hazards, Sgt. Roden will help with a security audit, and social workers will provide relevant red flag behaviors of note.

Ms. Van Aken commented that training will be needed for the different roles and responsibilities. Both Ms. Morgan and Mr. Devine felt that ICS could come in to do the basics on that.

3. Regarding Sonitrol procedures at MES, Sgt. Roden reported having received an email from Offr. Tibbals, who was looking to take over issuing access cards to staff. Sgt. Roden said he's fine with that if Ms. Torre is, and wondered whether other schools would want their SROs to do likewise. Mr. O'Brien felt that Ms. Gombos would want to continue doing that at NHS, and it was assumed that BES and WMS would continue with their current set up, but there was no disagreement with MES having the SRO take care of it at that school.

4. Mr. McAllister has shared the background check contract with Atty. Sommaruga, who provided suggestions related to protecting the district. These have been sent to the company and he is waiting to hear back from them. Woodbury Park and Rec is also interested in using the system, though their needs will be different. As far as information obtained, one of two letters will be provided from the Trooper to the school or town: one is the volunteer applicant passes, and one if he/she fails. It will be up to the school or town to decide if the reason for a fail is pertinent to allowing the person to volunteer.

5. Regarding the budget, Mr. Ciotti reported vendor walk-throughs as complete and he expects results mid-week. Camera access will be based on credentials. Also, as to cell antennas, schematics have been sent and the number of antennas needed is expected soon. Much discussion followed regarding e-rate dollars, school budgets, grants and matching funds. With a Finance committee meeting scheduled for 3/10, and Mr. Ciotti's numbers expected by 3/5, the committee decided to reconvene on 3/6 to finalize budget numbers.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryanne Van Aken

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