

Minutes of the Ad hoc Safety Committee  
Regional School District 14 [www.ctreg.org](http://www.ctreg.org)  
January 24, 2014

A meeting of the Ad hoc Safety Committee was held on Friday, January 24, 2014 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

Present were Superintendent Jody Ian Goeler, Committee Chair Maryanne Van Aken, and committee members Jody Goeler, Mike Devine, Mike Molzon, Sgt. Joe Roden, Wayne McAllister, George Bauer, Paul Ciotti, and Janet Morgan. Also, Carol Ann Brown, reporter Mike Preato, 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. Update on Safety Plan: Ms. Morgan reported that she and Sgt. Roden had been creating a template for all Region 14 Schools to use, but then received a document from Homeland Security that she has been reviewing and that she and Sgt. Roden think will be preferable if the group is in agreement. It was designed so that, eventually, all school in the country will have a similarly formatted plan. It is designed so that our procedures can be cut and pasted into the document. She will send to central office and she and Sgt. Roden will proceed with it and bring it back to the committee when complete. The plan template includes letters for signatures (for volunteers, subs, vendors, etc) and flow charts to show procedures for various emergencies and situations. Once completed, Ms. Morgan will obtain all sign offs, and send it to the state by the 7/14 deadline.

2. and 4. Development of 2014-15 safety budget: Ms. Van Aken referenced the priority concerns expressed by administrators at the recent safety "retreat" and invited the committee to discuss. Sgt. Roden noted that all 4 schools are interested in some level of improvement on camera use, both exterior and interior. Mr. Goeler noted that, at the legislative breakfast, it was noted that the single best thing schools can do is to fortify entrances, and cameras would be a part of this. In response to Ms. Van Aken question, Mr. Molzon agreed that the \$4000 for minor door issues at MES can be gotten through the operating budget. The budgeted amount and needs for shades/blinds was also discussed at length.

Ms. Morgan noted that the need for planters as traffic barriers would be great Eagle Scout projects and would result in no cost to the district. This will be looked into.

Mr. Ciotti has done walk-throughs at all schools to determine best placement for interior/exterior cameras. Better access to camera data is needed, as well as better placement. Mr. Ciotti will get some vendors out for quotes.

It was discussed that Mr. Molzon will take care of the need for a fence at BES, too.

Ms. Van Aken wants to be mindful to take the building project into account when installing cameras at the high school. Mr. Devine commented that so long as cable lines are preserved during construction, the cameras can simply be removed and replaced after construction.

There was considerable discussion regarding cell boosters, the anticipated tower in Bethlehem, determining what cell providers teachers have up there, and weighing the costs of installing landlines in all classrooms vs. dealing with the various cell providers used. Ms. Morgan felt the main thing is that they have access to phones in an emergency, however that is accomplished.

Mr. Ciotti will get a number of how many phones are needed at BES to get one in every classroom. Sgt. Roden pointed out that Phase II of the phone conversion addresses this because then all classrooms will be able to dial out.

3. Background checks timeline: Mr. Goeler offered a revision to the board policy on volunteers, #1212 and a draft of the accompanying regulation for review. Mr. Devine questioned paragraph 4 of the policy that calls for background checks only for those volunteers who would have unsupervised access to students. After much discussion, it was decided to strike that part of the sentence and call for background checks for all volunteers.

Mr. Bauer suggested a first read on the 1212 revision at the next board meeting.

Ms. Van Aken is determined to establish a date when the lexus nexus system will be in place. Mr. Goeler noted that our attorney recommended keeping all the information here to be more streamlined and to create less communication issues. Ms. Van Aken asked if it was still planned that we do checks with local police. Sgt. Roden felt so long as the information moves back and forth efficiently, this would be preferable. If other stakeholders are interested in using the service, such as Park and Rec, then the info should stay at the police station. If only Region 14 uses it, then the records should be kept here.

Mr. Bauer asked if the SROs would be involved. Ms. Morgan thought it would be best to have the applications to volunteer go to the SRO, then to Sgt. Roden, back to the SRO, and then back to the school. This way, she said, the info (SSN, etc) is more secure and being handled by law enforcement, as opposed to a teacher.

Mr. McAllister indicated that Woodbury Park and Rec is interested in participating.

Ms. Van Aken is interested in determining a fee structure for the towns, etc. to use the service.

Mr. Devine suggested a MoU between towns/law enforcement who have access to the service because applicants will want to know who has access to the information.

Sgt. Roden suggested "walking the dog" and paying for a year of service so we can work through the details as we use it.

Ms. Van Aken asked if funds are available for this (\$1500) and Mr. McAllister indicated there are. This will be pursued.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryanne Van Aken

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