

DISTRICTWIDE SCHOOL SAFETY TEAM MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2022

12:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Mary O’Neill, Dr. Roger Bloom, Barbara Jacobowitz, Michael Hardy, Todd Goodwin, Dana Docar, Jeffery Reid, Robert Stein, Patrick McGovern, Richard Canalini, Alexa Sakal, Debbie Wachter, Juanita Sherwood, Guy Forman, Luis Salazar, Officer Todd Adkin, Officer Jesse Cooper, Detective Michael Brown

Committee Members Not Present: Dr. Pless M. Dickerson, Robert Troiano, Jr., Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase, Dr. Ronald Valenti, Kristy McNally, Paul Almonte, Antoinette Campbell, Katharine Joseph, Dayna Rosensky-Badillo, Danielle Aprigliano, Doric Capsis

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The virtual meeting commenced at 12:00 p.m. Ms. Mary O’Neill, Chair of the committee, introduced herself and welcomed the committee to meeting. She explained that the purpose of the committee is to review the school safety plan. She then passed the meeting to Jeffery Reid, Co-Chair of the committee.

1. Districtwide School Safety Plan - Changes/Revisions to Safety Plan

A “draft” copy of the Districtwide School Safety plan was distributed to the committee members prior to today’s meeting. The committee members provided their suggested changes and/or revisions, which will be incorporated into the “draft” plan as noted below.

The Covid information needs updating – pages 28, 31, 37, 38. Dr. Bloom will meet with Jeff Reid to go over COVID updates.

Cannalini - Middle school – page 7 add Rich Canalini as Dean of Students, page 12 (516) 876-2342 new fax number. Page 15 MS chain of command – must take out “Interim” she is the Principal. Add Christy Baralis. Assist Prin. Page 16 – is Felicia Crawford Principal. Page 48 take out Annex – Add Kristy. Add Canalini, Dean.

Todd Adkin – Page 7 – Should be spelled Atkin. Jesse Cooper – Jesse is misspelled. Spelling. Page 7 Add “situation awareness” to the training they provide. They have started training at Drexel already this year.

Sherwood – page 16 – add Supervisor of Transportation and add TBD for security Director.

O’Neill – asked if Stein and Forman had any changes.

Stein – Had no changes.



O'Neill mentioned that Michell had the following changes:

- Whole Document – update from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023 and remove footnote from bottom
- Front Page – change date to 22-23
- Front Page – Revised Dates – 2/17/22
- Page 4 – Dates achieved must be removed and replaced by new dates
- Page 6 – Dates of meetings must be added – 1/18/22, 2/17/22, 6/14/22
- Page 6 – Update list to reflect 22-23 committee candidates, add Mary O'Neill and Security Director TBD, change Robert Stein's title
- Page 9 – 22-23 years
- Page 12 – Change Ms. Toledo to TBD
- Page 16 – Remove/replace both Ms. Toledo and Ms. DeBellis
- Page 16 – Change Ms. Taylor to Ms. O'Neill, Security TBD, Transportation add James Popkin and change Ms. Toledo to TBD
- Page 17 – change meeting dates
- Page 23 – Change Ms. Taylor to Ms. O'Neill
- Page 48 – Change the previous list of members to the new list of members

Sherwood – teachers brought it to her attention that the crossing guard is never out of her car and asked if this is something that is generally acceptable and mentioned that the one at Drexel is at the corner, but the one at Urban and Prospect is always in her car. A teacher brought it to her attention because she saw a near accident with a student and is concerned.

Hardy – that corner is notorious for that. He spoke with an officer who said that those crossing guards should be out of their cars.

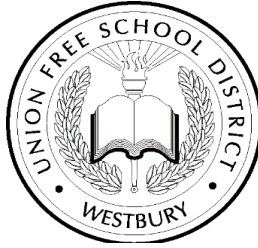
Officer Cooper – He will address these issues.

Docar – Keys at High School. If you do not teach at the HS, you don't have keys or access to the rooms and would be left standing in the hallway. There is no key, it is card coded. Can we get keys?

Forman – He is not aware of this issue, but can collaborate with security on this issue. He will look into it.

McGovern – the new wing is card reader only. If on a lockdown, you cannot get into one of those classrooms. If you have cards..... Not sure if this is an issue in other districts.

Cooper – those in the new wing, don't have access to that wing at all.



Cooper – Mr. Forman will have answers for you for this issue. Not sure he understands.... Under lockdown or a shelter in place instance?

McGovern – either or situation.

Hardy – we were never notified of that. Ordinarily, we would address this. This is the first time we are hearing of this. We would have notified Mr. DeNicola and have gotten teachers' cards activated and give them access to all classrooms. We were never notified.

McGovern – If there is a new wing in the building.... Shouldn't you have known about the access.

Hardy – IT would be responsible and should be notified. We can take care of it. We will get the names of the teachers that access the classrooms.

McGovern – in the MS new wing, don't all teachers have access to all classrooms?

Hardy – teachers should have access to all areas. We will discuss with Ms. O'Neill, Mr. Stein, Mr. Forman.

Goodwin – question regarding COVID. In the next month or so, Governor will most likely roll back mask mandate. When we will roll back the temporary desk shield and mask wearing practices if this is coming down the pike based on what's on the news and what CDS is saying? It looks like next school year will be more and more normal. Will we be phasing out the desk shields in this school year?

Bloom – any luck in getting a 7th grade football team?

Goodwin – hoping to get another coach.

Bloom - Sent plan to Dr. Harrington and the Board. His wife was at a football game and saw Todd getting a huge round of applause at that game..... anyway, praise that we are out of the Omicron phase. January along through the 31st do you know how many cases we had in the district? 298 from 1/1-1/31. In February 2/1 to current is only 14. There is concern, but looking good so far. When we came back from January break was extremely high. The state is extremely upset with state kids 1/3 ages 5-11 are currently vaccinated. Not sure how quickly the state will eliminate the mask mandate, but right now, what we went through as a District, there has not been conversation regarding masks. He looked at statistics from 2020-2021 to now, we had maybe 50 cases and now this past January triple the amount. No decision yet on this. We have to see what the state says. Only 14 cases in February.

Goodwin – are they anticipated that vaccination rate going up for kids?



Bloom – they expected it to be much higher. The vaccination truck was here. They had all appointments filled, and a large portion of our population. But were expecting a higher 12-17 number. The decision will not come through immediately, but the state will continue to review our data. Every district must submit data on a daily basis. If they see a spike following the February break, a decision will be made. The whole goal is to keep everyone as safe as we can.

Goodwin – the desk shields are so dirty. The kids can't see through them. They are never clean. They are almost a detriment to kids right now.

Bloom – Mr. Stein, Forman, Hardy have taken note.

Sherwood – the vaccination van has always been at the HS. Is it going to rotate or stay there?

Bloom – We used up our time, and won't come back. They filled their quota with us. IF they come back, it will most likely be by the HS again.

Bloom – Covid tests will be handed out at the district. There is a letter going out to the community to make a recommendation that families test the kids during the break at home at that the buildings have a large supply of kits if they need them and to contact the building if they need them.

McGovern – I'm a WTA Health and Safety rep. In the past we had a breakdown of the committees.

O'Neill – all of the information is on the website.

McGovern – a lot of members are confused on the which committees they are on and what the purpose of the committee is.

O'Neill – all of the information is on the website. If someone doesn't want to be on a committee, they can advise us and we can remove them off the committee. We have worked to post this information on the website. If you have a building concern, you should not wait until a committee meeting to address it.

Sakal – We would appreciate the message to be given that the administrators should meet with us before we attend these meetings. It is not up to us. They should be making the time to meet with us as opposed to the other way around.

Cooper – on page 13 of the safety plan I just wanted to question some things..... under hostage taking, it says the first person aware of the hostage taking will call the building principal and then call 911. I think it should say first to notify 911 then the principal. I want to note that calling 911 should be priority. Also under that under intrusions, it is kind of like the same point, 911 should have the same priority bullet point number 4 if they individual refuses to leave, advise them they are in violation of the law.... I think calling 911 should be listed first and prior to these bullets.



Also I would like to have a meeting with Mr. Hardy to discuss lockdown issues and key issues and we can hash out those issues.

Hardy Great idea.

Sakal – last spring we had a discussion about schools that have outside security booth and schools do not. I am wondering if it was looked at getting school security booths for those schools that do not have them.

O’Neill – I don’t know.

Stein – we are looking at the vestibules for the 5 schools that don’t have them. This is the first time I am hearing about no security booths. I will look into this.

Adkin – make sure

O’Neill – someone mentioned about blue lights. We will be doing an assessment about blue lights.

Atkin- He did a review of the school 2 years ago and did a report on the blue lights. He can give the district more copies if necessary.

Sherwood – we also spoke about having speakers so we could communicate with students. Some of the community members felt it was disturbing... you would not be on it all day, just when necessary.

Atkin- we spoke about this as well. The speaker would be in conjunction with the blue lights. If the blue lights are illuminated is the reason behind the blue strobe lights.

O’Neill – we will take the changes that were recommended and will update it. If you have additional changes, email me or Mr. Reid. By the end of March, we will forward you a draft of the new plan and have you look at it at that time. Our next meeting is June 14th and we will get it on line.

Canalini – School Crossing Guard we have been very lucky. If someone sees it daily to see people not stopping at the stop signs, kids getting dropped off ... we are trying to get the kids into the buildings safe. Since more COVID, there are more students getting dropped off. If we can entertain this, it would be great.

O’Neill – we are doing a traffic study to assess the situation.

Cooper – we are doing a study to get a crossing guard at that location. He feels there is a need for a crossing guard there. Hopefully we get the desired result.



Canalini – we also talked about making that a one way. Having two-way traffic with busses and students crossing makes it very difficult.

Cooper - nothing was submitted regarding a one way. That could be incorporated. Doing a one way is difficult due to issues that come up with residents and such.

Sherwood – are the officers going to be a part of our meeting going forward.

O’Neill – the other committee should include the officers.

Sherwood – we did not have the officers in the past. They know the overall safety. They update us.

O’Neill – look after the break for the revised plan. We will see you at the next meeting.

Action Items:

- Revise the plan with any suggested changes from today’s meeting. (Michell Synnott)
- Advise Mary O’Neill of any additional suggested modifications to the plan by March 1, 2022. (Committee)
- Re-distribute the revised plan to the Committee by mid-March with any additional revisions. (Michell Synnott)
- Have safety plan approved by the Board at the March 15, 2022 Board meeting. (Mary O’Neill)
- Have final draft of the Board approved safety plan posted on the website. (Michell Synnott)
- The next committee meeting is June 14, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michell C. Delmonte-Synnott on behalf of Mary O’Neill