

Special Education Parent Partnership Committee Meeting Minutes
Dec. 9th 2022
1:00 to 2:00 PM

Present: Corinna Graner, Kim Van Eyll, Molly Meyer, Erica Swenson, Ericka Ronnings, Ann Werdel, Jessie Stratmann, Jillian Burke, Ali Howe, Erin Murray, Teresa Widen, Emily Bremner Forbes, Erica Lammers.

Begin with introductions of all. Today the topic is safety and crisis management training as we have been working on and wanting to share with all stakeholders and continuing the work in safety education and training. While the topic can be heavy we feel it is important. Please feel free to ask any questions throughout the training. Jay McCoy, our Police liaison, was planning to attend but was called away. A member asked the question of the capacity of the police liaison role in the district.

We want to talk about the importance of the collective effort between the community and families in prevention and safety. Orono has a robust history of safety and emergency response plans. Orono has strong relationships with Police and Fire as they are all connected and have very good relationships with those departments. Fire chiefs often come in and help us to do better. They will come and train with the school to help improve practices and drills.

Emergencies come in many different ways. Each and every day our students, and their safety is a priority. Why do we plan for emergencies? The recent snow day was mentioned and the fact that we do encounter natural hazards such as tornadoes, floods, power outages, and technology hazards such as gas and power emergencies.

We have a partnership with the MN School Safety Center. Orono participated in five training sessions. With that collaboration they are valued and a guiding resource. Their team reviewed our crisis plan, and conducted de-escalation training for administrative assistants. There were one or two recommendations that were enacted upon.

The structure of the emergency management phases slide was shared and explained. Prevention, prepare, respond, recover. A slide was shared showing the National Incident Management System and this was explained. NIMS was established after 9/11 and the basic command structure was also explained. A parent was asking how this structure is applied to this school. Corinna Graner explained that Orono has a similar command structure and the crisis teams that are in place within the district. Corinna also shared that the structure can change fluidly depending on whether the particular incident gets bigger or smaller the structure will change. Kim Van Eyll explained how the structure will expand or contract.

Prevention starts with the culture and climate in our buildings. Orono district strategic goals were shared. Scholarship, relationship, and character. Having relationships with families is a strength that is unique among school districts. A member asked about using the term academic along with the term relationships. Academics are not necessarily part of a relationship.

Profile of an Orono graduate student was shared in a slide.

A Mitigation Prevention slide was shared. Identify hazards, physical mitigation, social and emotional mitigation. Kim Van Eyll shared that you can text 9-1-1 if need be.

Physical Mitigation - access control; the staff is trained on awareness of visitors in the buildings. The community is relied upon for information.

Social/Emotional Mitigation slide was shared. Protective factors: climate and culture in our schools. What are some ways we connect students with each other? Erin Murray shared how clubs are formed in Orono high school. Dr. Steiner and Jeff Aman coordinate the weekly club meetings. There are students who don't make connections through certain clubs so depending on interests and needs of the students in that particular year, the clubs will change and are fluid.

Preparedness and planning are essential. Building drills, with staff, as well as students are always included in training, and planning. There are five fire drills throughout the year, by law. Severe weather drills are also part of the student training. A member asked how the parents are to communicate with their children on this topic. This should be represented in the communication that is in draft form. A parent shared some books that could be read as well and was asked to share those book titles.

There are six crisis management teams at Orono schools representing E-12 personnel.

Threat assessment model was shared and explained that the community is a large and very important part of this. Collectively we are better when we work together. Stage 1 response is the first five minutes. We support and guide students. Stage 2 response - outside help arrives and they will direct us. Vocabulary explained such as rally point which is where students would load buses. Reunification points are where students would be bussed to to reunite with their families. Although this is a heavy topic it is important to know we have robust plans with reunification.

Recovery process does not happen quickly. This includes emotional and physical support for students, staff, and families. Orono is in partnership with Wayzata School District and we rely on each other in times of need.

Sometimes the messages may be conflicting and can sometimes be confusing. Understanding sometimes events occur, and the media can sometimes have incorrect information. Orono will communicate via messenger.

The *How Parents Can Prepare for a School Emergency draft* was shared. Group feedback was welcomed and a few members shared feedback on the form. A member asked if the school sends home a communication to parents about the use of drills, and follow-up.

Parent feedback will be utilized in updating the form. We will put it on the website when it is ready.

A group member inquired about how the most vulnerable students can utilize different resources to ensure that we're not putting students at risk of pipeline to prison. How are police connecting to our youth in education?

Corinna thanked the group and asked if anyone had any questions or comments.

A member shared a resource: Cope is in Hennepin county and is available to all residents and maybe it could be shared on the website.