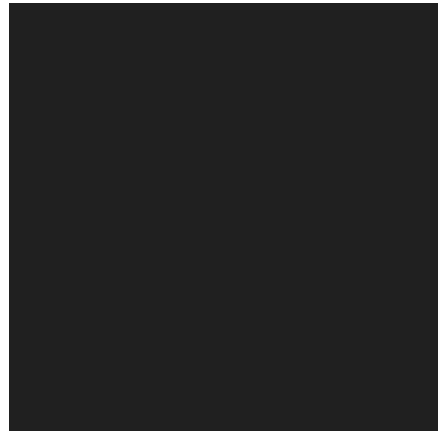




Forward in Excellence



**Safety/Security Presentation
Westchester County Safety
Commissions Report
Board of Education
December 10, 2019**



District Level Safety Procedures in place

- Single Point of entry at each building
- Security Vestibules at all four buildings
- Increased number of safety drills
- Highly Visible Safety Vests along with 2-way communication gear provided for all campus monitors
- VOIP System which is currently in place and being used for Lockdown Drills
- Ongoing patrols of our campuses and buildings by the Somers PD as well as the NYS State Troopers





District Level Safety Procedures in place (cont'd)

- All District and Building Level Emergency Response Plans have been updated
- All Building Emergency Response Plans were distributed to the various required agencies in a timely manner according to State Education guidelines.
- Lockdown drills and evacuation drills have been and continue to be performed at each of our four school buildings
- Drill evaluations are completed following each drill at each building according to SED requirements and are being filed at the building level as well as in the Administrative Offices
- Building evacuation and parent reunification locations have been cemented and are part of our Current Emergency Response Plans
- Annual Emergency protocol training has been completed for school, lunch and campus monitors.
- Altaris is continuously working with the HS on the new community lunch program



District Level Safety Procedures in place (cont'd)

- Building Safety Audits have been completed and follow up audits are in process
- Exterior door numbering signs have been purchased and received with installation of these numbers to occur in the near future
- Emergency zone clipboards are in place in all four buildings
- Local Law Enforcement have been given emergency access to buildings with access cards (NYSP, Somers PD)
- School Resource Officers (SROs) – one at each of our four school buildings
- After School and Evening hour Security Personnel at each building
- Altaris Consulting Group/ District Safety Coordinator
- Ongoing Safety Training for All District Staff (Building Emergency Response Teams, Threat Assessment, Tabletops at District and Building Level etc.)



Westchester County Safety Commissions Report

- **In September 2019, the Westchester County Safety Commission released a report based on Creating Safer Schools. This report itemized various recommendations for all NYS School Districts, which we will cover in this evening's presentation.**



Recommendation #1

Every school building must develop a comprehensive “Emergency Response Plan”. The state requires such plans for public schools and private schools including colleges.

- Each school in the Somers Central School District has a comprehensive Building Emergency Response Plan that meets, and in some cases exceeds NYSED guidelines and regulations. NYSED also provided a self-assessment form to crosscheck the Building Emergency Response Plans with all NYSED guidelines. These self assessment forms have been completed for all four buildings and all are in compliance with current guidelines as noted on these forms.



Recommendation #2

Law enforcement agencies should appoint a police-school liaison for every school in their jurisdiction. Each liaison should receive training on all aspects of school safety, regularly visit the school, and have emergency-access to the school

- The Somers Central School District took the initiative to have a school resource officer (a member of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety) assigned to each of their four school buildings. This provides a tremendous advantage to the District providing an immediate police response in an emergency situation. The SROs also provide guidance in determining the level of police involvement required in non-emergency situations. Each SRO has an office in each of their assigned buildings and are virtually always a presence on campus. Sergeant Bernhardt of The Westchester County Department of Public Safety directly supervises the SROs assigned to the Somers Central School District and Mr. Bernardi is the liaison between the School District, the SROs and the program provided by the Department. Sergeant Bernhardt is in daily contact with the assigned SROs as is Mr. Bernardi.



Recommendation #3

The Westchester County Police Academy should coordinate consistent training for all “School Resource Officers” assigned to Westchester schools.

- This recommendation is incumbent upon the Westchester County Department of Public Safety to ensure. At this time all SROs have trained in explicit detail, the importance of their role in the school building as a Law Enforcement Officer. There are numerous caveats in Law Enforcement that provide SROs a unique understanding of their roles in schools. They attend continuous training in Threat Assessment, Preventative Tactics, Legal updates, as well as Advanced SRO Training Programs, etc.



Recommendation #4

School districts should establish a “Threat Assessment Team or Teams”, including mental health professionals and police liaison, to identify students who “may be at risk to harm themselves or others,” determine the level of threat, involve guardians and provide support. This process must be documented.

- Each school building has a threat assessment team operating. The teams have scheduled meetings, as well as meetings as needed, based on developing situations. The teams are using a nationally recognized model to conduct threat assessment. This process has standardized the procedure for each building and is available on the District’s Alpine database. This particular Threat Assessment database was developed by the District and Building Administrators with the assistance of Dan Corrado and Sergeant Bernhardt, using the above-mentioned model to guide the teams with the following:

Threat level of incident, necessity for immediate response, required interviewing, follow up plan for future intervention/monitoring if needed. A follow up session is scheduled with members of each team on December 19, 2019 to discuss and brainstorm the success of the current system.



Recommendation #5

Districts must establish an “Emergency Response Team” that includes the threat assessment team, plus transportation and facilities personnel

- The Somers Central School District Emergency Response Team has been established and has representatives from building administrators, threat assessment teams, the Director of Transportation and the Director of Facilities.



Recommendation #6

School districts and police should establish clear expectations for when schools should contact law enforcement.

- All Somers Building Administrators work closely with the building SROs. The SROs are kept up to date on all safety and security issues and are included in determining the necessary level of law enforcement involvement in situations, or events, brought to their attention by building administration. Faculty and staff are encouraged to call 911 should a serious emergency situation come to their attention. The School District has also established a close working relationship with the Somers Police Department as well as the State Troopers, Somers Barracks and have consistently included them in all Lockdown Drills as well as various trainings throughout the district.
- This past August, State Troopers exercised a Full Lockdown Drill using Somers High School in order to increase their familiarization with the building and detail an even more favorable response in the event of an emergency.



Recommendation #7

Every school district should have a system for anonymous reporting of potential threats.

- The Somers Central School District has an anonymous reporting system, (Anonymous Alerts) which is conspicuously posted on the District webpage, as well as all school webpages. When reports are filed, notifications are made to District and Building Administrators who respond accordingly.



Bond Items in Progress

- Motorized steel gate arms at SHS and SIS
- Lockable Classrooms/Wall Installations in Great rooms at SIS
- Replacement of 60-year-old Transformers at Primrose
- Safety Film on 1st Floor exterior Windows/Doors and certain interior glass at all four buildings
- Exterior Door Ajar System
- Additional Security Cameras