

Security Guard Staffing Advisory Committee Report

BOE Presentation 1/18/2023

Presenters:

Mr. Don Barto

Mr. Russell Costa

Ms. Mary Catherine Culella-Sun

Mr. Thomas Lynch

Dr. Adele Pecora

Ms. Audrey Saracco



Presentation



Committee Members



History of Committee



Charge of Committee



Current and Future Security Measures



Findings from the Committee



Committee Survey



Recommendation to the BOE



Committee Members

Parent Members	Central Office	Building Administration	BOE Members	Faculty and Staff
Mr. Nelson Brolly	Dr. Adele Pecora	Ms. Jen Bisulca	Ms. Lisa Herbert	Mr. Matt Adler
Ms. Petra DeHaan	Mr. Russ Costa	Ms. Deb Emmerich	Ms. Stacie Stark	Mr. Don Barto
Mr. Frank DiScala	Ms. M. Culella-Sun	Ms. Mary Ellen Kakalos		Ms. Y. Bendzlowicz
Ms. Jennifer Kelly	Mr. Tom Lynch	Ms. Nicole Schnabel		
Ms. Maria Mantione	Ms. Rhonda Meserole			
Ms. Audrey Saracco				



Security Guard Staffing Advisory Committee History

The first committee was authorized by the BOE at the June 20, 2018, meeting. This ad hoc committee was comprised of community members, BOE members, teachers and administrators. The committee made the following recommendations at the February 6, 2019 BOE meeting:

- Increase the number of Security Guard shifts at all locations
- Provide additional training for staff on security related matters
- Maintain strong partnership with Nassau County Police Department
- Inform outside organizations of security protocols and training

This committee was dissolved in 2019 since the objectives were achieved.

In the Spring 2022, the BOE re-established the Security Guard Staffing Advisory Committee. The first meeting was held on June 21st, 2022, and the committee developed its charge.



Charge for the Security Guard Staffing Advisory Committee 2022 - 2023

1. To review existing staffing of security guards.
2. To review potential alternatives for security guard staffing including, but not limited to, staffing levels, qualifications or skills, training assignment and utilization throughout the School District.
3. To investigate groups that may provide additional security support including armed guards.
4. To make recommendations to the Board of Education of the Seaford Union Free School District concerning security guard staffing and utilization of such security guards throughout the School District.
5. To conduct additional research as may be requested by the Board of Education.

The committee met on June 21st, July 28th, September 13th, October 25th, and December 5th.



Research Conducted by the Committee

1. Comprehensive review of existing security staffing
2. Resources for existing unarmed guards to manage security
3. Changes in legislation regarding concealed carry laws in NYS Schools
4. *Availability of School Resource Officers in Nassau County*
5. Mental Health Supports
6. Armed Security Guard Options
7. Committee Survey



At the July 28th, 2022, Officer Kevin Glenn of Homeland Security attended for the purpose of debriefing the committee on his recent Security Risk Assessment.

Officer Glenn stated that all Seaford campuses possess appropriate levels of security. He emphasized that Seaford schools are secure and stressed the most important aspects of school security are locked outer doors, locked classroom doors and the wearing of identification badges (all faculty, staff and secondary students).

Related to this point, three additional facility security enhancements were recommended:

Placement of room numbers inside the classroom to make occupants aware of their exact location in case of an emergency



New doors for the Manor Main Office and Facilities Office



High Impact Security Film on all Office storefront glass



Immediate recommendations after Security Review

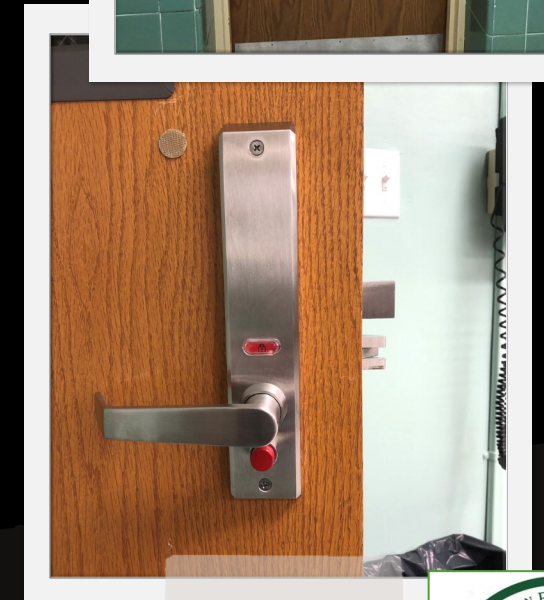
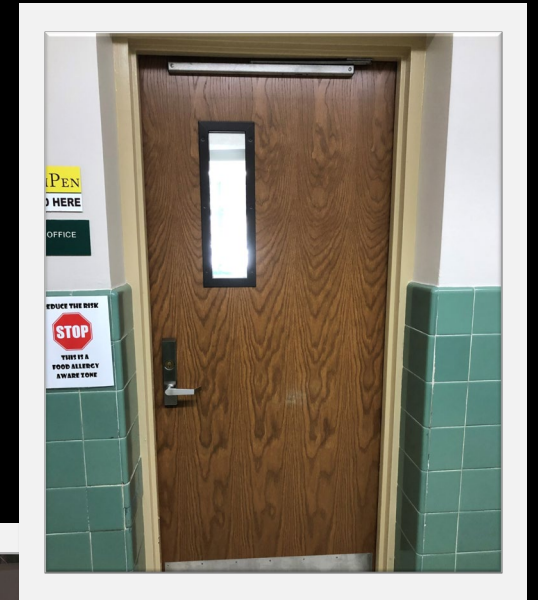
During review of existing security, immediate recommendations for instant implementation included:

1. Additional Security Guards

- Recess coverage for Harbor and Manor (2)
- Daytime roaming guard shifts (2 – hiring now)

2. Security Enhancements to Facilities

- New fire-rated doors with smaller vision panels
- New push-button deadbolt locks
- High Impact Security film for Manor Main Office and Facilities Office storefront glass



Additional Resources for Security Guards

While discussing perimeter security, it was determined to equip main lobby security guards with 'Bank Teller Boxes' and High Impact Security Film on the glass of all Main Entrances.

Bank Teller Boxes to be installed on all building Main Entrances

This will allow visitors to our buildings to interact with security in a more secure manner.



High Impact Security Film installed on the glass of all Main Entrances

This provides additional structural integrity to existing glass.



These items will be included in the 2023 – 2024 Budget pending BOE approval.



THE EVOLUTION OF CONCEALED CARRY LAWS IN NEW YORK STATE SCHOOLS

- Since 1913, New York has had some of the most restrictive gun laws on the books, making it nearly impossible for an ordinary citizen with a gun license to carry a concealed weapon in public unless he or she could show “proper cause.”
- In the school context, until recently, only active-duty police officers were permitted to carry guns in schools in New York.
- On July 22, 2022, however, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down New York’s concealed carry law in the case entitled *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*. There, the Court held that New York’s gun laws prevented law-abiding citizens from exercising their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms for self-defense and that it violated the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Shortly thereafter, Governor Hochul convened a special legislative session to pass a new law called the “Concealed Carry Improvement Act” in response to the Bruen case. This Act sets forth new requirements that gun owners must meet in order to obtain a concealed carry license, and prohibits licensed individuals from carrying guns in dozens of “sensitive locations” such as schools, churches, parks, bars, theaters and stadiums.
- Certain individuals, however, are exempt from the “sensitive locations” rule and are permitted to carry in these restricted locations. Specifically, active duty and retired police officers, along with active military and certain others are now allowed to carry concealed guns in these designated locations. This is a deviation from prior New York law which prohibited retired police officers from carrying concealed guns in schools.
- While the restrictions of the Concealed Carry Improvement Act are already facing legal challenges regarding its potential unconstitutionality under the Bruen Decision, at present, retired police officers are legally permitted to carry in New York State schools



Committee's Research on Armed Guards

School Resource Officer

- It is not possible for our District to acquire a School Resource Officer (SRO) through Nassau County PD.

Seaford Security Guards

- The Seaford UFSD has a unionized group of security guards who, by contract, would have first rights to this work.

Considerations

Outside Agency

- District officials met with Covert Investigations to discuss services offerings. This is not an option unless our security guards decline the work.

Insurance and Liability

- The District's insurance company (NYSIR) does not provide accidental discharge insurance. Operating without this insurance would be reckless.

This information concluded our research as a committee.
The last step was a survey of committee members.



The Security Guard Staffing Committee Questionnaire

On November 11, 2022, an online questionnaire was sent to committee members to gather final thoughts from the six months of work. Seventeen of the twenty members responded to the survey.

1. Based on the current security protocols, which statement best expresses your opinion: *

- The Seaford School buildings are extremely safe.
- The Seaford School buildings are very safe.
- The Seaford School buildings are safe.
- The Seaford School buildings are somewhat safe.
- The Seaford School buildings are unsafe.

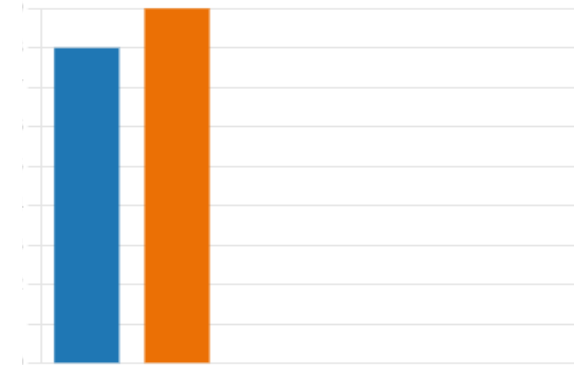
2. If you could enhance the security measures within the Seaford School District buildings, to which safety point would you allocate additional funds? *

- Perimeter of buildings
- Point of entry of buildings
- Enhancements within the buildings
- Digital environments (i.e., cybersecurity)
- Community use of school facilities

1. Based on the current security protocols, which statement best expresses your opinion:

[More Details](#)

<input type="radio"/>	The Seaford School buildings ar...	47%
<input type="radio"/>	The Seaford School buildings ar...	53%
<input type="radio"/>	The Seaford School buildings ar...	0%
<input type="radio"/>	The Seaford School buildings ar...	0%
<input type="radio"/>	The Seaford School buildings ar...	0%



2. If you could enhance the security measures within the Seaford School District buildings, to which safety point would you allocate additional funds?

[More Details](#)

<input type="radio"/>	Perimeter of buildings	18%
<input type="radio"/>	Point of entry of buildings	47%
<input type="radio"/>	Enhancements within the buildi...	29%
<input type="radio"/>	Digital environments (i.e., cybers...	6%
<input type="radio"/>	Community use of school faciliti...	0%



3. Which do you identify as the best use of resources? *

- Increased security personnel
- Technological safeguards (i.e., Door Ajar)
- Additional pupil personnel support (psychologists, social workers, social groups)
- Student education (wellness assemblies and increased curriculum)

3. Which do you identify as the best use of resources?

[More Details](#)

- Increased security personnel 18%
- Technological safeguards (i.e., D... 12%
- Additional pupil personnel supp... 65%
- Student education (wellness ass... 5%



4. If Seaford School District were to add security personnel, which would you choose? *

- Additional unarmed security
- Armed security
- No additional security is needed

4. If Seaford School District were to add security personnel, which would you choose?

[More Details](#)

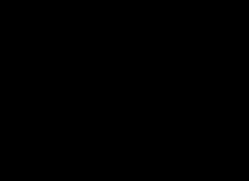
Insights

- Additional unarmed security 53%
- Armed security 29%
- No additional security is needed 18%



In summary, seventeen of the twenty members responded to the survey and responded that:

1. Seaford school buildings are very safe or extremely safe
2. Building entries, perimeters and safety features within the building are most important
3. The best use of additional funds would be for pupil personnel support
4. If the district were to add additional guards, the committee recommends additional, unarmed guards



Committee Recommendations to the BOE

1. Add the following security enhancements for the 2023 – 2024 Budget
 - Bank Teller Boxes for all building main entrances
 - Safety Film for all building main entrances
2. Convert the two psychologist positions (2022 – 2023), that were temporary, to full-time probationary status (2023 – 2024)
3. Maintain the increased, unarmed, security guard staffing levels
4. Armed security guards are not recommended
5. The District will continue to work with the Nassau County PD, Homeland Security Division, to periodically review school safety and security

This concludes the work of the Security Guard
Staffing Advisory Committee

