



Safety & Security Task Force
General Recommendations
January 11, 2023

A Series of Four Meetings Convened

The Task Force was commissioned in the spring of 2022 and brought together the following fall for a series of meetings initially facilitated by the district's security consulting firm, Altaris. The objectives were to help Task Force members understand best practices, outline current plans/measures in place, as well as measures soon to be implemented. With this foundational knowledge, the Task Force next provided feedback, offered ideas and helped set priorities in considering opportunities for improvement. There was significant discussion of cost/benefit value considerations, ultimately resulting in a generally prioritized list for the district's consideration as we enter the budget planning process for 2023-24. The meetings were held on the following dates:

1. **August 15, 2022-** Overview of best practices and what is currently in place; Questions & Answers addressed
2. **September 12, 2022-** Overview and Q & A Continued; Input/Participation from law enforcement on what is currently in place and what future actions might be possible
3. **October 3, 2022-** Presentation and Discussion of Improvement Opportunities by School Level: Estimated Costs & Considerations
4. **November 14, 2022-** Prioritization of Recommendation Safety and Security Improvement Opportunities

This report opens with a set of Key Directional Themes gleaned across all four meetings, followed by a summary of measures in place or underway through the general fund or the bond. The heart of this summary consists of a list of Recommended Improvement Opportunities that the Task Force identified for the administration and Board's consideration in looking toward the budget priority-setting process for 2023-24.

Key Directional Themes that Emerged Across All Four Meetings

- **Plan Communication-** There are many plans and assets in place that most people don't know about. We need to find ways of systemically

communicating these elements without compromising security. This enhances safety, trust and confidence.

- **Ownership and Fidelity of Execution-** Plans are only as good as the clarity and training of everyone throughout the organization. Detailed plans need to be broken down into simple, executable checklists. Training must be regular, detailed, and meet the needs of all populations so that everyone is always executing at a high level. Someone needs to 'own' and coordinate and have authority to hold people accountable for execution. This is foundational and more important than equipment and tools.
- **Technology Tools and Philosophy-** Technology tools that enhance security play a role that is secondary to Ownership and Fidelity of Execution. Each tool should be carefully considered in light of the purpose and alignment with a clearly articulated philosophy.
- **Emergency Communication-** We currently have gaps in cell coverage and VOIP communication that are of concern
- **Partnership with Law Enforcement-** We are fortunate to have strong partnerships with our local law enforcement agencies. We must make sure that each agency and the school district clearly knows its command-structure role in a crisis so that there are no communication gaps. We should also continue to explore opportunities through these partnerships by learning together, sharing information, and leveraging resources and new technologies.

Current General Measures in Place

- The District has a Safety Plan
- Each Building has a customized, detailed, confidential security plan that is revised annually and drilled regularly
- Regular Drills are Conducted- four lockdown and eight evacuation drills annually per school
- A Security Consultant provides best-practice and compliance expertise to the district through Altaris Consulting
- A Half-time Security Coordinator is on site within the district through Altaris consulting to provide training and oversight
- A School Resource Officer is deployed full-time within the district through Bedford Police Department

- Safety Monitors are in place at the secondary level
- Layered Measures are in place: Security vestibules, cameras, alarms, threat assessment teams

Additional Measures Underway through General Fund

- Law enforcement room and camera access
- Raptor Visitor Management system
- CRG Building Mapping system
- Room numbering
- Parent reunification planning
- Stop the Bleed training
- Law Enforcement Training within school buildings

Measures to be put in Place Through the Bond

- VOIP Phones in classrooms at BVES and PRES
- Security Vestibule upgrades at building entrances
- Safety and security window film
- Emergency generator HS grandstands

Next Steps- Improvement Opportunities Recommended by the Task Force- Generally Prioritized by Level

A list of items with the potential to improve BCSD safety and security was generated through the Task Force's discussions about best-practices and current-state in the first two meetings. Each item on the list of Improvement Opportunities was evaluated by the Task force for overall value according to school level based upon a robust discussion of projected effectiveness vs. cost in light of best practices and measures already in place/process. The results listed by each level team within the Task Force are below, and will be considered by the administration for inclusion in the 2023-24 budget process:

Elementary Schools

Higher Priority:

- Security Coordinator from half to full time
- Additional Police Officers/SRO's
- Lock Upgrades- classroom doors
- Cell Phone Repeaters
- Door Ajar Sensors

Medium Priority:

- Expand VOIP Phone system to include a handset in every classroom
- Additional security cameras

Lower Priority:

- Camera/Intercom Upgrades
- Combination keypads for emergency access
- Additional Security Aides
- Connect network closets to generators
- Generators at all buildings
- Keep people on perimeter of campus

Middle School

Higher Priority:

- Lock Upgrades- classroom doors
- Additional SRO's
- VOIP phones in every school
- Generators to all buildings
- Additional security cameras
- Connect network closets to generators
- Training
- Combination keypads for emergency access
- Door ajar sensors
- Camera intercom upgrades

Medium Priority:

- Security coordinator half to full time
- License plate readers
- Cell Phone repeaters
- Additional security aides
- Keep people on perimeter of campus

Lower Priority: None

High School

Higher Priority

- Security coordinator from half to full time
- Expand VOIP phone system to include a handset in every classroom

- Camera intercom upgrades
- Generators at all buildings
- Cell phone repeaters
- Connect network closets to generators

Medium Priority

- Additional security cameras
- Lock Upgrades classroom doors
- Door ajar sensors
- License plate reader

Lower Priority

- Combination keypads for emergency access
- Additional SROs
- Additional security aides

Summary and Appreciation

The BCSD administration and Board of Education are deeply appreciative of the members of the Safety and Security Task Force for their time and dedication in lending their expertise to the critical work of the Task Force. Members were highly engaged, deeply passionate, and brought informed analysis to the table as they committed at least 10 hours of meeting time to this crucial work.

Equally important to the work that has been done thus far, it brings the administration great comfort to know that we have established relationships with a group of committed individuals with whom we can convene in the future for additional input as we move ideas and plans forward to the next stage.

We remain fully committed to ensuring that the Bedford Central School District is on a never-ending journey of continuous improvement focused on keeping every single person on every one of our campuses as safe and secure as possible at all times.