IMPROVING SECURITY AT SCHOOLS, ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, AND IN OUR JURISDICTIONS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS AND THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES (BISCOE, CANDOR STAR, TROY, MOUNT GILEAD) POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Montgomery County Schools (referred to hereinafter as: "the District" and Local Law Enforcement (referred to hereinafter as the "Montgomery County Safety Advisory Team" hereby enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the collaboration on the development of improved safety and violence prevention throughout the jurisdictions serving Montgomery County.

COLLABORATION OBJECTIVES

1. To assess existing security needs.
2. To identify new opportunities for safety improvements.
3. To improve coordination with law enforcement and first responders.
4. To pilot and test newly developed safety strategies and make modifications as needed.
5. To finalize a safety model to ensure school safety for future years.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The District is committed to involving the following individuals and organizations when implementing the project objectives to increase security for the District's students, staff, community, and buildings. This includes involvement and coordination with our jurisdictions' law enforcement personnel and first responders:

- District staff such as principals/assistant principals, faculty, school staff, students, parents, school social workers, guidance counselors, and Board Members, security industry experts.
- The Sheriff's Office and Local Law Enforcement personnel and their respective jurisdiction are helping with the project.
- Local Emergency Management experts, public safety experts, and other individuals and organizations that interface with school safety.

The District will partner with law enforcement to review the existing security assessment that was completed in the spring of 2023. In addition, the District will conduct updated school and district-wide assessments during the grant period and ensure individuals and organizations who interface with school safety are incorporated throughout the planning and implementation process.

The District will continue to enact safety strategies developed through its security assessment. Key strategies include but are not limited to quarterly lockdown drills, annually updated safety assessments for each school and the entire district, and ongoing training and coordination with law enforcement and first responders, per plan recommendations.

The District will work with law enforcement to ensure the proposed technology and equipment are properly installed and used.

The District will provide fiscal management of the grant's expenditures and, in collaboration law enforcement, will provide evaluation of the program's goals, objectives, activities, and milestones. Project reports and data will be stored and submitted by reporting and compliance requirements from the Office of Community-orientated Policing Services.

The District will provide program management to the project. Under the leadership of Assistant Superintendent of Operations Matthew Woodard and Dr. Jack Cagle, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services; the District will collaborate with local law enforcement to train faculty and school staff, as well as community partners, on relevant safety planning, procedures, and prevention.

The District is committed to involving the previously mentioned key partners, other individuals, and organizations who interface with school safety to ensure the District is fully supported in efficiently and effectively implementing the program.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and local law enforcement and emergency responder organizations serving the District's schools will oversee the updated security assessment that will occur during the grant period, and ensure individuals and organizations who interface with school safety are incorporated throughout the planning and implementation process.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and local law enforcement and emergency responder organizations and the District will continue to enact safety strategies developed through their existing security assessment. In partnership with the District, law enforcement and first responders will implement their safety plan, including lockdown drills, evacuation training, natural disaster training, etc.

Law enforcement will work with the District to ensure grant-funded equipment and technological security improvements are properly installed, maintained, and used.

Law enforcement will continually work with the District to evaluate school safety and make necessary modifications as needed.

KEY STAFF AND PARTNERS

Project Team Leader

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Matthew Woodard and Dr. Jack Cagle, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services will serve as the liaisons and communicators between law enforcement and key partners, as well as school faculty and staff, parents, and community members. Both will serve as the District's champions to oversee the project's direction and timely completion, conduct initial outreach with law enforcement and relevant community partners, and coordinate the completion of the project's data collection and program report writing.

Law Enforcement Team Leader

Montgomery County Sheriff, Pete Herron, will lead the relationship with the District as well as the community, oversee the project's management and direction, assist with community outreach to obtain input and involvement about school safety and be responsible for the project's overall implementation.

Key Partners

The following team members will be involved in the project's updated security assessment and safety modifications: students, parents, faculty, school associates, school social workers and guidance counselors, school resource officers, school Board members, police chiefs and officers, the County's sheriff's office, emergency management, school safety experts, and other school safety field experts. Core team member participation will be engaged by the Project Team Leader and Law Enforcement Team Leader.

DATA-SHARING STRATEGY

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, 1ocal law enforcement agencies, and emergency management/first responders will communicate and notify each other of an emergency through security equipment and technology. The Team will determine the best way to integrate purchased school security equipment into safety planning.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Currently and throughout the project, law enforcement and the District will communicate on at least a monthly basis. Communication is currently made through teleconferencing, emails, Board meetings, and during intruder lockdown drills. In November 2019, the Team launched the Sandy Hook Promise initiative (threat identification and response) at all secondary schools. Throughout this project, partnering organizations will continue to communicate monthly and as needed to launch the updated assessment, install, and implement the proposed safety equipment, and engage with school faculty, staff, and other key community partners.

Communication for financial reporting will occur monthly and for program reporting quarterly. Non-confidential reports will be shared with key partners as reports are completed and as needed. Communication with the media will be made after the review and approval from the project's Team Leaders.

MAJOR MILESTONES OF THE PROJECT INCLUDE:

- Purchase and install grant-funded security equipment:
- Identify new security opportunities and ways to coordinate with law enforcement:
- Pilot integrated security model, including training• on appropriate ways to use equipment:
- Finalize security model:

Signature: _____ Date: 9/11/23

Dr. Dale Ellis, Montgomery County Schools, Superintendent

Signature: _____ Date: 9/13/23

Matthew Woodard, Montgomery County Schools, Assistant Superintendent

Signature: _____ Date: 9/12/23

Dr. Jack Cagle, Montgomery County Schools, Assistant Superintendent

Signature: _____ Date: 9/13/2023

Sheriff Pete Herron, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Signature: _____ Date: 9/13/2023

Robbie Smith, Director of Montgomery County Emergency Management

Signature: Tina M. Medlin Date: 9/15/2023

Tina Medlin, Interim Chief of Police, Biscoe Police Department

Signature: M. Tate Date: 9/15/2023

Matt Baldwin, Chief of Police, Candor Police Department

Signature: Talmedge LeGrand Date: 9/19/2023

Talmedge LeGrand, Chief of Police, Mt. Gilead Police Department

Signature: David E. Kime Date: 09/15/2023

David Kime, Chief of Police, Star Police Department

Signature: James Atkins Date: 9-13-23

James Atkins, Chief of Police, Troy Police Department