

SAFETY & SECURITY



**Community Forum
January 7, 2024**

**FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION
ANALYSIS**

Participants



144

registered

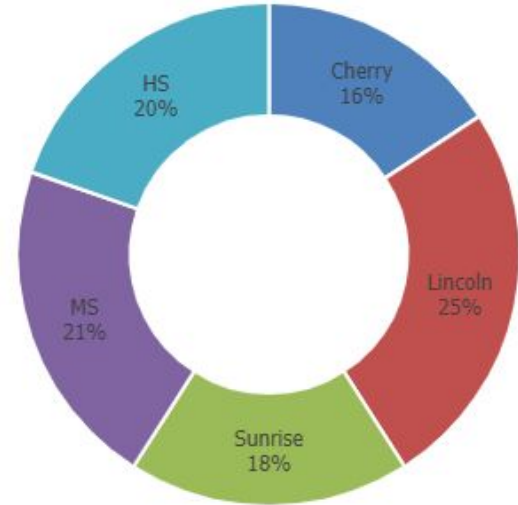
100

in audience

96

in focus groups

community participation

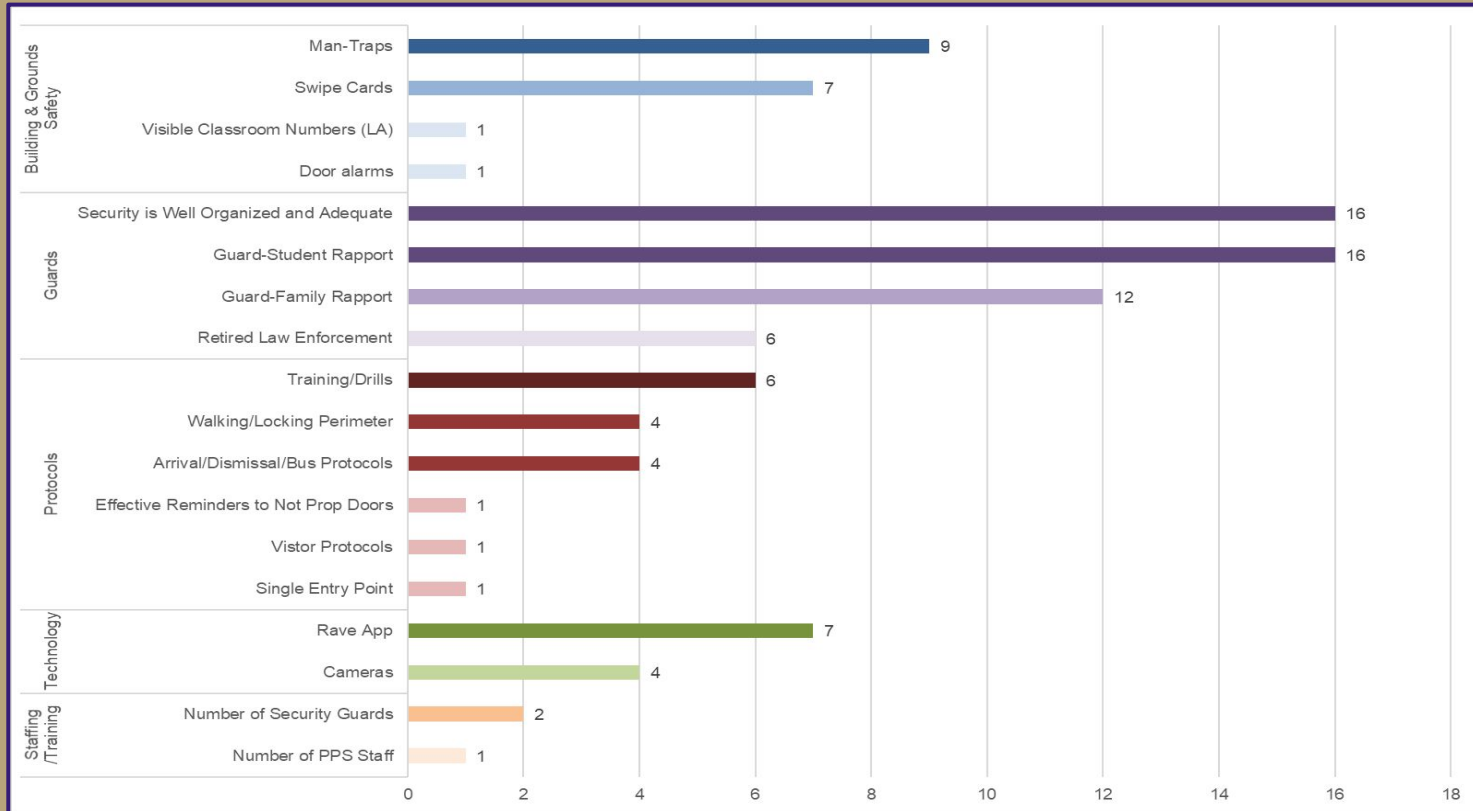


QUESTION #1

What are some aspects of our security program that you feel are important to maintain, **things we are doing well** that we should keep in place or continue to enhance as a district?



STRENGTHS



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I believe buildings are secure and I really appreciate that.

I am impressed with how seriously the District is taking this issue.

Security guards in my building are very strict and follow protocols.

Gates are locked, guards walk perimeter. They take it seriously.

Classroom number signage sticks out from doors. Easy to see. (LA)

Preventative. Working with community & 5th precinct.

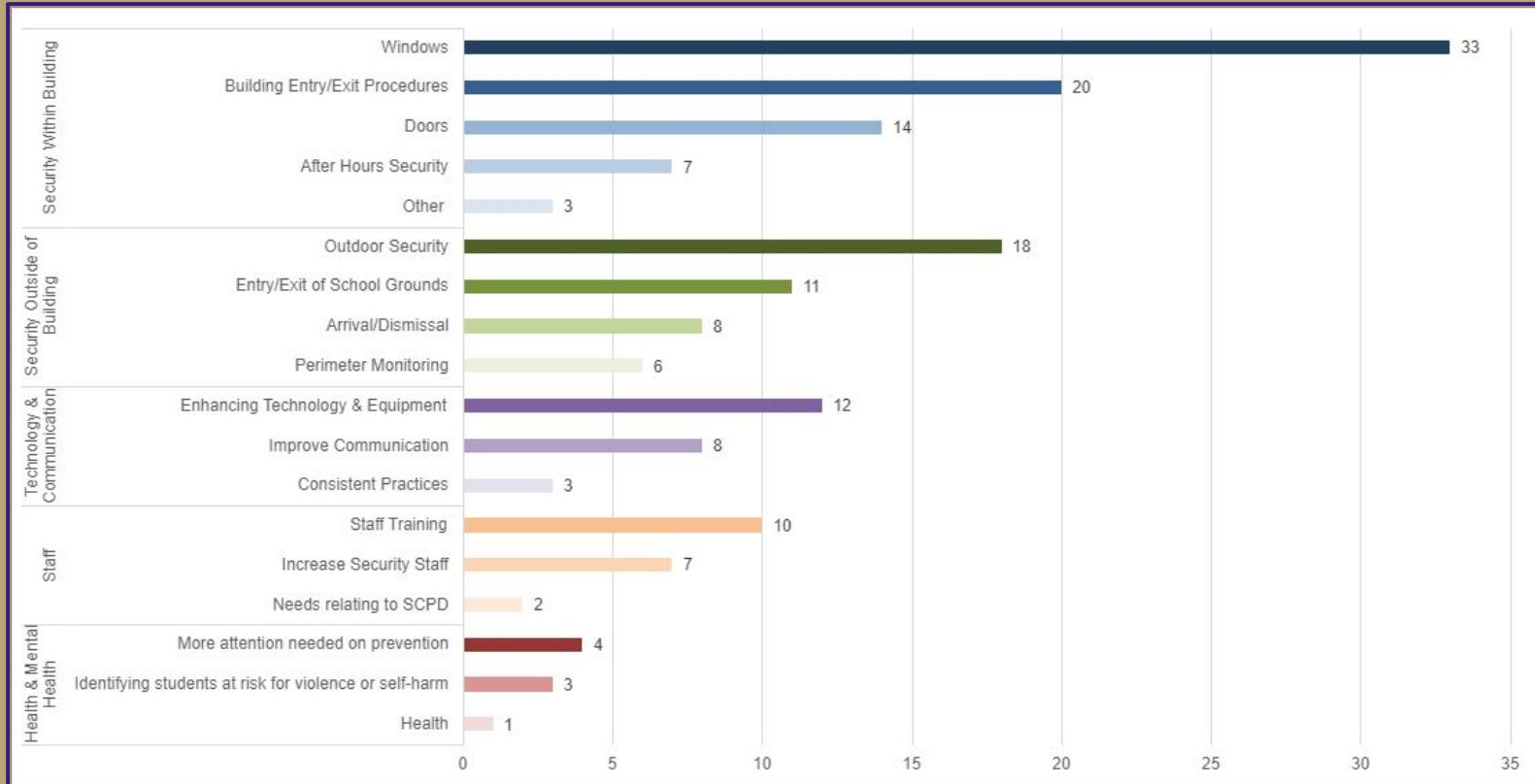


QUESTION #2

What are some **areas of improvement** that need to be made in terms of safety and security, not related to armed guards?



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Security Within Buildings

*Suggestions: A/C,
Shatterproof window
film, clearer room
number displays*

*Improve protocols for
visitor check-in at
large events*

*Single point of entry to
building*

*Tighten protocol for
Parent IDs,
procedures for student
pick-up from office*

*Explore consequences
for repeatedly
propping doors. Look
into Door Ajar system*

*Door procedures after
school/SCOPE are
less stringent,
inconsistent.*



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Security Outside of Buildings

Recess in session during UPK pickup. Parents can access recess field.

Anyone can come to outdoor events, Field Day, etc.

Single point of entry to campus

*Suggestions include:
Privacy Fencing,
Guard Booths,
Single Entry/Exit*

Gates should always be locked. Need better perimeter monitoring.

Need better oversight of arrival/dismissal. Some doors left ajar. Should verify who students are released to.



AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Technology & Communication

Cameras: complete coverage. Sensors?

Better cell service, ensure RAVE App works even in poor wifi

Enhance communication about security protocols and procedures.

Continue Trainings such as Active Shooter and Stop the Bleed

Buildings need better cell service

Better/widely equip buildings with supplies & equipment for emergency. Outdoor AED.

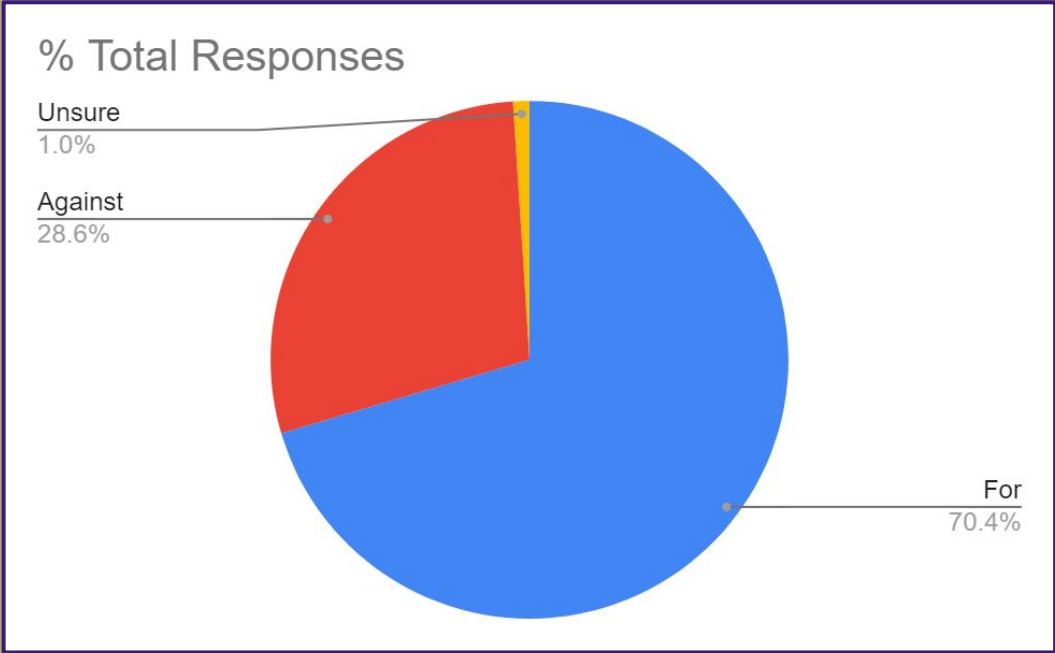


QUESTION #3

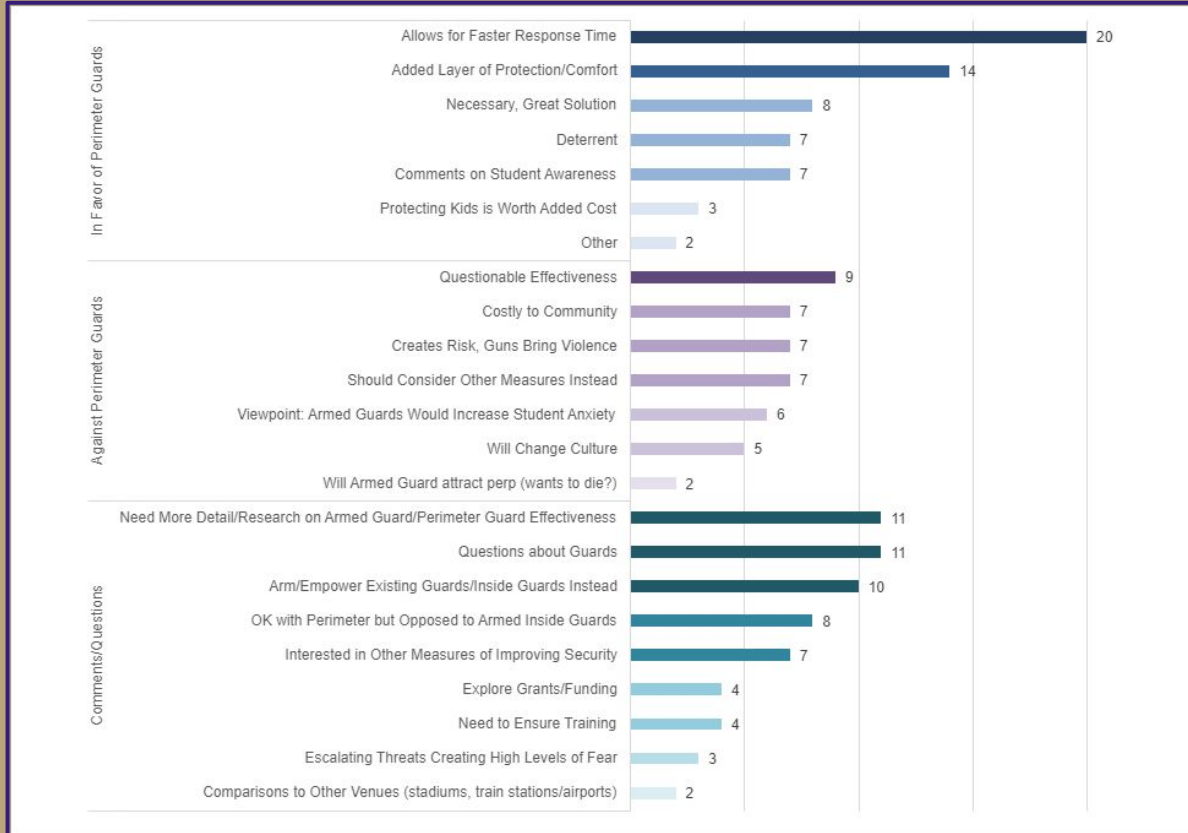
Some community members are asking us to provide **armed perimeter guards** in cars, outside of each school building. Please let us know how you feel about this proposition.



PERIMETER GUARDS



PERIMETER GUARDS



PERIMETER GUARDS

Comments in Support

*Armed guards -
perimeter or inside -
will know building and
can respond quickly.*

*Schools without
guards are a target.*

*I am very comfortable
with armed perimeter
but not armed inside.*

*Working in district with
armed guards and feel
safe (5)*

*A practice employed
elsewhere: rotate who
is armed and nobody
knows who it is.*

*Is there research to
not support this?*



PERIMETER GUARDS

Comments in Opposition

False sense of security.

Threat can come from inside or outside.

Data shows high number of school shootings that had armed guards present.

Money should be spent on other ways to improve security. I do not feel advantages outweigh costs.

I am concerned about human error, gun getting into wrong hands.

The role of guns should remain on police, will disrupt culture. Schools should not need this level of protection.



PERIMETER GUARDS

Other Comments

Would a perimeter guard be effective for a student who brings a gun to school?

*What would be a better deterrent?
Marked or unmarked?*

What would the expectations be of perimeter guards?

What qualifications, training, type of firearm, communication between perimeter guards and building?

Will there be further discussion if armed inside guards are considered?

Should be a research-based decision and a more detailed plan.



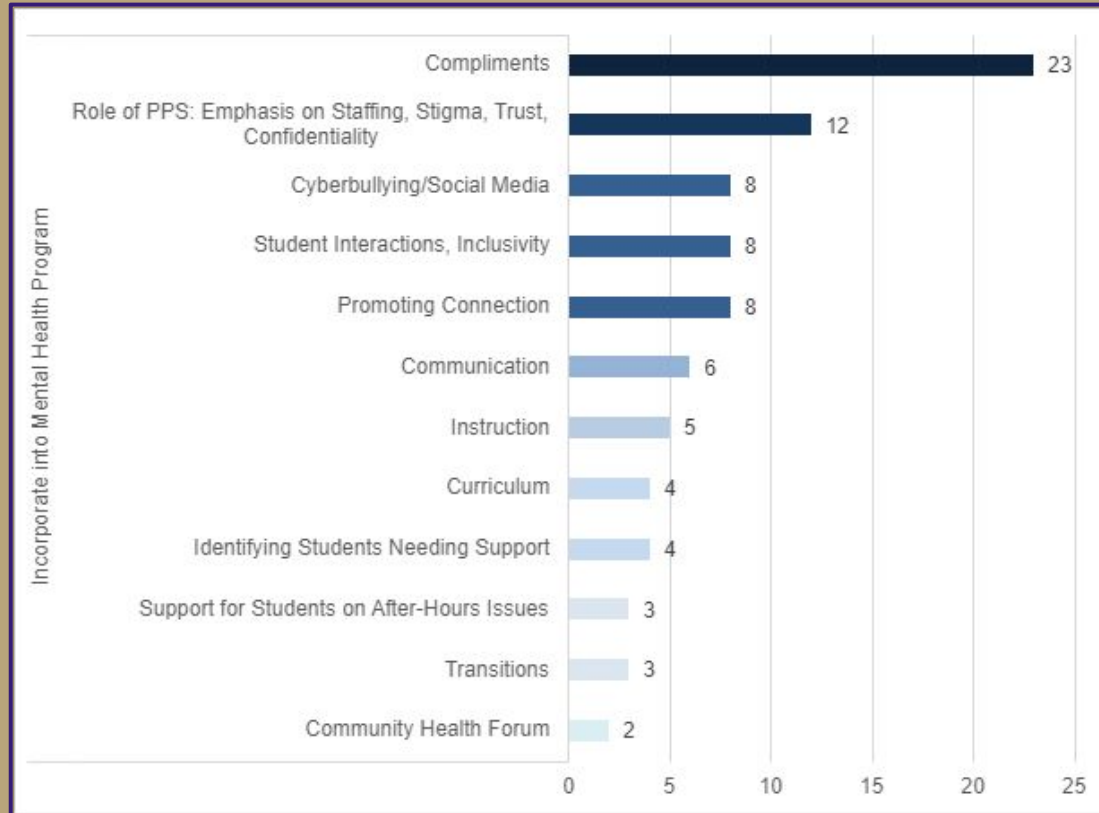
QUESTION #4

What other **suggestions on mental health initiatives** would you like to us to incorporate into our program that would be beneficial for our student body and families?

What **additional questions** do you have about our **wellness and mental health programs** that you would like addressed in our schools?



MENTAL HEALTH



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A lot is being done (5)

My child uses the strategies she learns (2)

STRIDES, Connect Day, Community Events, Color Run, Carnival. Great idea to bring on PM Pediatrics.

Good communication, well-staffed. Commendation to Mrs. Makris.

Frost Valley is essential for SEL.

Continue providing parent education.

Continue to normalize the conversations surrounding mental health to reduce stigma.

Some students worry about confidentiality.

How are we being more inclusive, especially for students at risk?



MENTAL HEALTH

Peer-to-peer restorative justice and mediation.

Students need to be reminded that their confidentiality will be protected.

What is counselor role in SEL learning? Should have a K-5 counselor.

Important to focus on the negative effects of social media, phone, and other tech that is harming this generation

Cyberbullying - good job teaching but need better follow-through when issue arises.

Make and share plan to better identify "at risk" students

Instruction for students on following gut feelings/instinct for threats

Elem-MS Transition is toughest. Kids need more help navigating difficult years.

How do we support students' mental health after they leave? Are there programs for graduates?



MENTAL HEALTH

Questions



If kids are bullied, how are they being supported?

Should mental health be part of this forum, is this what parents should be teaching?

Do we know if mental health services result in fewer fights, issues, school refusals?

Do students know where they can go in a crisis or need help?

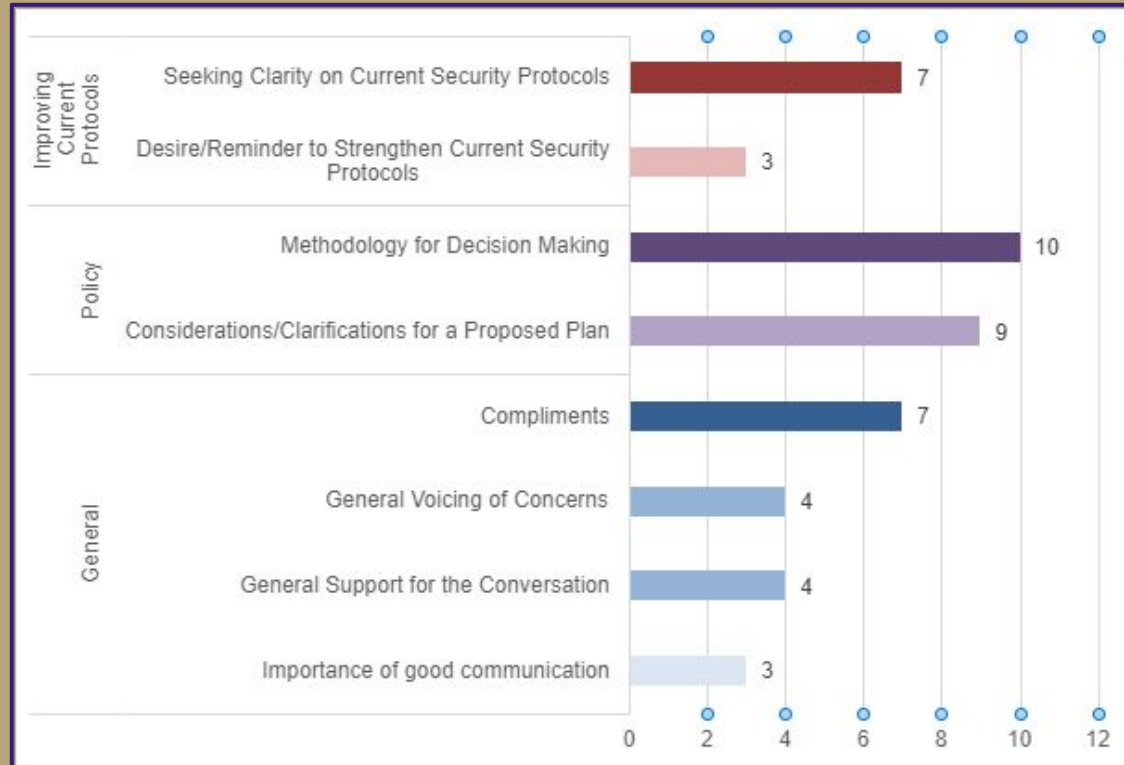
Is anonymity upheld if a student reports? If so, do students know that?

QUESTION #5

Is there **anything else** you would like to share with us or recommend at this time before we bring our focus group to a close?



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS



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Policy

Do teachers, guards have a say? Can they have an opportunity to comment (anonymously if they wish)?

The armed guard petition was brought to light but it seems like other avenues weren't explored.

We should explore doing a community vote for this decision. Possibly at same time as budget.

Need to clarify that perimeter guard enters in case of incident. Does that individual intervene if threat is from inside?

Other support to explore: dedicated SRO, other tools for guards (Taser), are vestibules bullet proof?

Policy focus should be: how can we secure entry to delay danger and buy time?



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Improving Current Protocols

Can we invite local law/first responders to drills? Evaluate, give feedback, familiarity.

Reinforcing with students to not let people in. Will cameras catch if they do?

More detail on current procedures (unless confidential). What do guards do? How do we monitor students returning from suspension for making threats?

Pre-Screen List for Open/Special Events (ex: Trunk or Treat)

Would like to hear from families affected by school shootings.

Parent Reps on Safety Committee



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

General

Small groups were a great format for this conversation.

There are some people who still don't feel comfortable sharing their opinion at risk of being ostracized by louder voices.

It is good to be proactive.

More communication is good, but streamline. Color code priority notices? Consistent system across buildings.

Overcommunication is key. Don't keep us wondering. That's when chatter happens.

Concerned for everyone in the building - staff, students.

