

BPS School Safety Planning Committee



Agenda



Introduction
And Quiz



Recent
Safety/Security
Updates



Mission
Statement



Next Steps

Introductions



Who are you?



What is your relationship to the Bellingham Public Schools?



If there was a zombie apocalypse tomorrow, where to you go to survive?



What do you know about current practices?

- List any physical safety/security measures you have seen or experienced at our schools
- What safety/security trainings are you aware of?
- What other safety/security related experiences have you had in our schools?

Recent Safety Security Upgrades— last 5 years

2013, 2018 Bond

Cameras

Access Control

Exterior upgrades (**Fencing**, etc.)

Business Practices (**Protocols**,
communications, etc.)

Campus Monitors

Relationship with **First Responders**

Training Opportunities

Contracted Security Services



Emergency Preparedness-Aligned Protocols

Beginning last year (23-24), Bellingham Public Schools officially adopted the iloveguys Foundation's Standard Response Protocols.

- All public schools in Whatcom County have adopted or are currently adopting the Standard Response Protocol.
- All administrators in BPS were trained by the iloveguys Foundation in August 2023.
- Drills are designed to educate and promote the use of Standard Response Protocols.

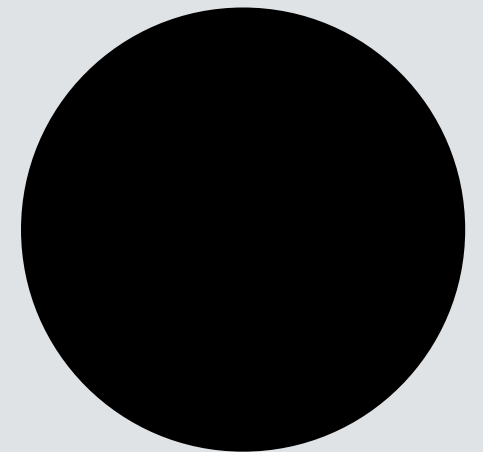
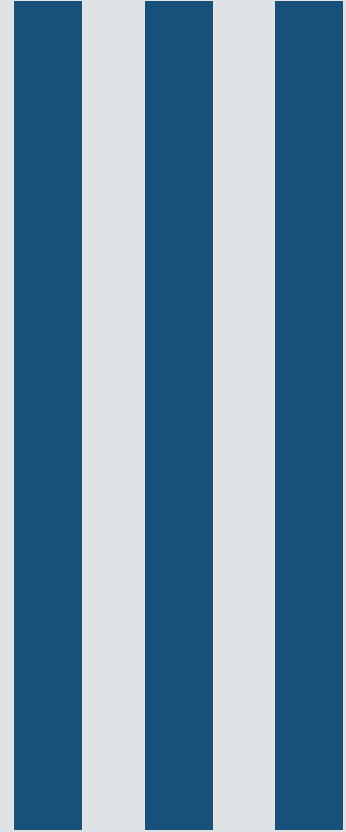
Emergency Preparedness-Aligned Protocols



- **Hold** – initiated when a school has a situation that would require students and staff to remain in place.
- **Secure** – initiated if there is an unsafe situation outside or around the school campus.
- **Lockdown** – initiated if there is an unsafe situation inside the school.
- **Evacuate** – initiated if the building is unsafe and needs to be evacuated.
- **Shelter** – initiated if there is a hazard to be mitigated.

Bond Dollars – Security Upgrades

- In conjunction with the recent bonds and general funds, the following projects have been completed or are in process:
 - Video Monitoring systems for school buildings and transportation.
 - Access Control in schools and transportation
 - School-specific needs like fencing
 - ADA improvements at various sites



Bond Dollars – Security Upgrades

Bond Projects –

Cameras – Completed work, discussing adding to outdoor facilities as they are upgraded/modified.

Access Control – As of 6-24-24, Elementary, Middle, and High Schools updated and active, currently studying feasibility of BFPP

Fencing – Fencing has been upgraded and added as needed for safety reasons.
(Carl Cozier, Sehome, etc.)

Window Security – Security film and blinds are updated as needed. There have been a few full scale upgrade projects (Carl Cozier, Shuksan)

Intercoms – Upgraded and repairing various school public announcement systems for successful activation of safety protocols.

Potential Implementation...

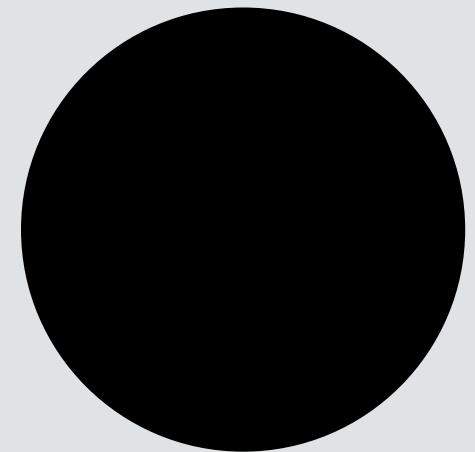
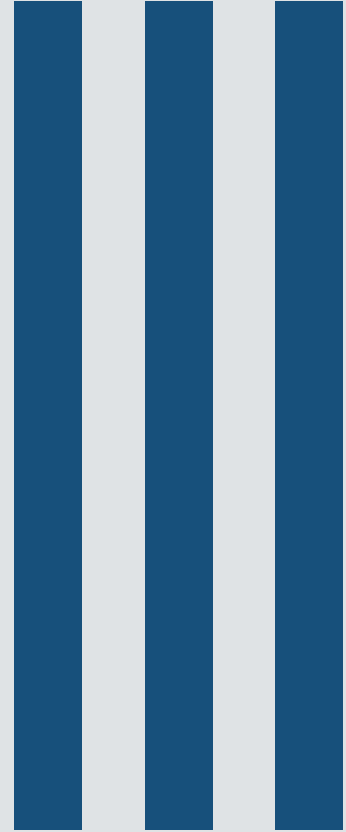
Centegix, Raptor (or other) wearable Panic button system:

- Lockdown initiated by any staff member with alert system (8 clicks – first responders automatically dispatched)
- 3 click option for site response (school safety team or administrative team only)
- Visual Indicators (strobes, colored alerts to respond to response type, automated PA announcements)
- Student/Staff Device visual announcement.
- Funding through Tech Levy



Campus Monitors

- Where are they assigned?
- What is their role?
- What laws and requirements apply to their position?



Campus Monitors

High School



HIRING
Bellingham HS



Peggy Fogarty
Sehome HS



Trisha Miller
Squalicum HS



Dionte Thomas
Squalicum HS

Middle School



Chris Porter
Fairhaven MS



Coralie Burr
Kulshan MS



Kyle Simenson
Shuksan MS



Gerardo Cisneros
Whatcom MS

Campus Monitors: Job Description and Philosophy

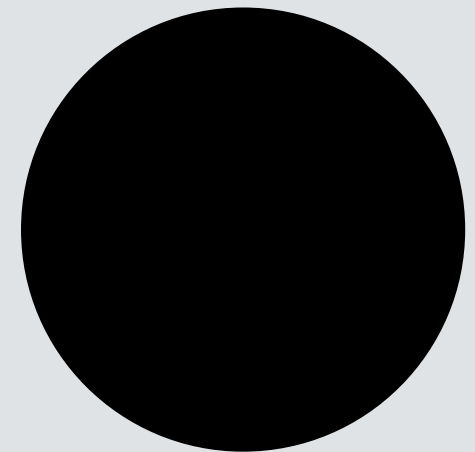
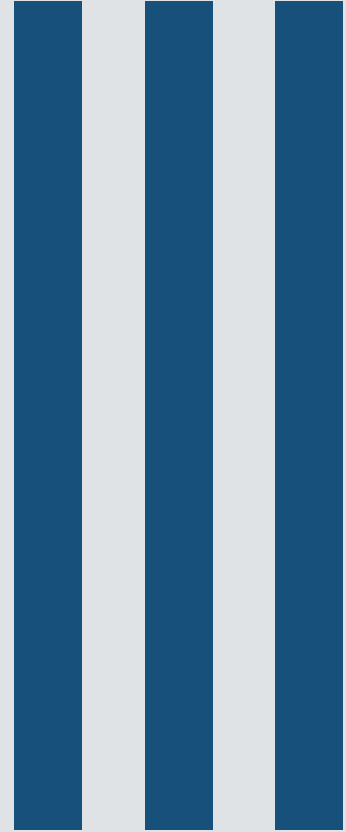
The primary responsibility of our campus monitors is to assist the administration in developing appropriate school culture by encouraging positive behavior, ensuring campus safety, engaging with students, and providing students with resources.

Duties include:

- Be visible on campus
- Assist students in critical thinking and problem-solving
- Communicate with and assist school administration, law enforcement, and emergency personnel in the case of emergencies, investigations, and/or incident response.

Collaboration with First Responders

- Director of Safety and Security works with patrol officers in school areas, as well as detective office, for any needs within our buildings.
- Director of Safety and Security collaborates with investigations into students, staff, and facilities.
- Trainings are coordinated with first responders (BPD, BFD, WWUPD, WCSO, and Whatcom County Emergency Management).



Collaboration with First Responders (cont)

- **Emergency situations:** Any staff member, student, volunteer, or visitor should initiate the process of calling for assistance in the event of an emergency.
- **Mandatory reporting:** All employees are Mandatory Reporters and must report directly to either Law Enforcement and/or DCYF in the event of abuse committed against a child. That can be either neglect or harm toward any child.
- **Cooperate with investigations:** When Law Enforcement is conducting an active investigation the school will cooperate with their investigation as allowed by state and federal guidelines on student privacy rights (e.g. sharing student records, video surveillance, student interviews (compliant with Policy 3226 and Procedure 3226)).

Collaboration with First Responders (cont)

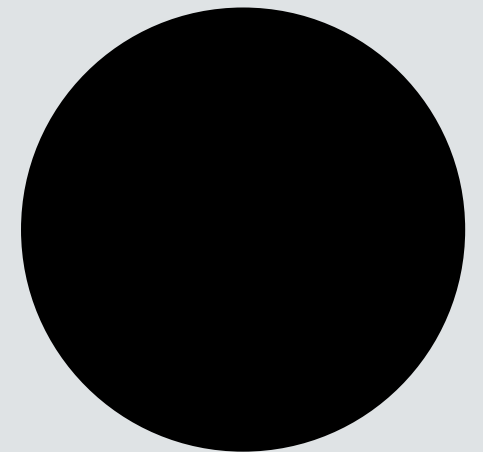
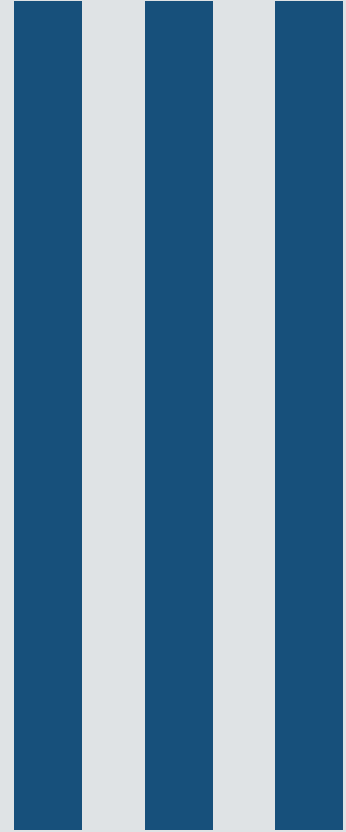
- Bellingham Public Schools is a member of Whatcom Unified Command.
- Two district staff members are actively engaging and training with Whatcom Unified Command and members of the County Emergency Response Team.
- BPS is also a leading member of the Whatcom County School Emergency Response team and is currently working on codifying that team through an MOU.

Training for Leaders

- All school/district leaders train in the **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** and the **Incident Command System (ICS)** management model.
- **Bellingham Fire Department's** Office of Emergency Management and **Whatcom County Sherriff's** Office of Emergency Management provide community training when requested including training in our facilities and best practices on incident management and mitigation.
- We held a **full-scale reunification exercise** on June 27th. This training was a half day instructional process and half day hands on exercise with all public school districts in Whatcom County, private school representatives, first responders, and NWESD members. We learned a lot of lessons at this exercise.

Mission Statement– Guiding questions

- What are our goals for student/school safety?
- What is important to be, and feel, safe?
- Where does/should Safety and Security fall in our priorities?



Mission Statement Samples

1. Keeping our students and staff safe at school is a top priority. Our mission is to promote a culture of safety and preparedness and a learning environment in which all students can succeed while feeling happy, healthy, and safe.
2. The paramount duty of the Bellingham Public Schools is to foster a safe, secure, and supportive environment for all students, staff, and visitors. We recognize that a safe learning environment is the right of all students. We are committed to proactively identifying potential risks, developing comprehensive safety plans, and promoting a culture of awareness and responsibility. Through collaboration, education, effective implementation, and continuous improvement, we aim to ensure that our schools are places where learning can flourish without fear, and every student feels valued, loved, and protected.
3. As a school district we prioritize the safety and well-being of every student, staff member, and visitor. We are dedicated to creating a safe and secure environment where all individuals feel loved, respected, and protected. We will provide this environment through proactive safety measures, physical security, a culture of care, and a commitment to effective implementation and continual improvement.

Mission Statement Exercise

What do we care deeply about?



Who do we want to serve?



What impact do we want to make?

1. Which WORDS are most important to you?

2. Which CONCEPTS are vital to communicate?

Next Steps

Finalize Mission Statement

Identify Potential Deficiencies

Develop Goals

Create Guiding Document



Thank you

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