



To: Dr. Greg Baker, Superintendent

From: Jessica Sankey, Chief Operations Officer and Russ Robinson, Director of School Safety & Security

Date: June 23, 2025

Subject: Recommendations from the Safety and Security Planning Committee

Dear Dr. Baker,

On behalf of the Safety and Security Planning Committee, we are pleased to share our recommendations following a series of collaborative meetings held between January and May 2025. This committee was convened to develop safety and security standards for Bellingham Public Schools facilities and to recommend projects that align each facility with these standards.

Committee Purpose and Process

The committee was established in recognition of the evolving nature of school safety best practices and the need for a proactive, community-informed approach. Our charge included:

- Reviewing and revising BPS technical safety standards.
- Developing a vision and mission for school safety.
- Evaluating facilities against these standards and recommending priorities.
- Creating a four-year capital spending plan for safety and security.
- Identifying future bond and levy funding priorities.

The committee met four times and included a diverse group of stakeholders: district leadership, school staff, public safety officials, parents, students, and community members.

Key Outcomes and Recommendations

The committee's work culminated in a one-page document articulating our shared vision and mission for safety in BPS:

Vision and Mission:

Bellingham Public Schools prioritizes the safety and well-being of our students, staff, visitors, and the community. We foster a culture of safety and preparedness by:

1. Implementing proactive safety practices
2. Planning for and maintaining physical security
3. Cultivating a culture of care and belonging

These strategies support safe, secure environments where learning can flourish.



Categories of Work

The committee identified three core categories of work:

1. Proactive Safety Practices
 - Standardized entry/exit points
 - ID badges for adults
 - Adoption of “I Love U Guys” protocols
 - Regular safety drills
2. Physical Security Measures
 - Security cameras and door access control
 - Fencing, intercoms, and window security
3. Cultivating Care and Belonging
 - Building inclusive school cultures
 - Strengthening student-adult relationships
 - Supervised school start times

Next Steps

The committee recommends:

- Adoption of the proposed safety standards and vision/mission statement.
- Use of the facility modification review system to prioritize safety upgrades.
- Implementation of a four-year capital spending plan aligned with these priorities.
- Continued engagement with community stakeholders in future planning and funding efforts.

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this important work and look forward to supporting the implementation of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jessica Sankey & Russ Robinson

Co-Chairs, Safety and Security Planning Committee