

Safety and Security Committee Virtual Meeting
March 17, 2026
9:00am

Meeting opening and agenda approval

The meeting opened with roll call, audio checks, and a motion to approve the agenda for the Safety and Security Committee meeting of March 17, 2026. The chair called for approval of the agenda. It was moved and properly seconded.

Quarterly safety report and Lightspeed incident

The team reviewed the quarterly safety report and confirmed no substantive changes since the board briefing, and the team had no additional updates to present to the board. Attendees described a Lightspeed incident occurred when a November email was opened in January on a Chromebook, triggering protocols and a parent meeting as well as a vendor follow-up to refine screening rules.

AI detection and monitoring capabilities

Members asked about AI detection in district systems and were told the network/device level has some AI controls and that Chromebooks allow only approved AI apps like Magic School. Lightspeed scrubs on-screen content and incoming emails/attachments, but the district lacks a reliable method to detect AI-generated assignments or content created on personal devices and is seeking more details from IT and vendors.

Event coverage strategy and accountability concerns

The team discussed event coverage costs and a "right-sizing" approach to staffing games with four-to-six deputies and eight safety monitors as baseline, using principals' budgets for additional requests. It was noted that board members raised concerns about inconsistent SRO visibility and principal follow-up. The district plans summer SRO training with Richland County and principals as well as SRO team-building sessions to improve on-campus deputy accountability and relationships.

Parent communication and school-level follow-up

Discussion focused on parent complaints about safety and the need for clear communication protocols. Staff affirmed district-level processes (including the Let's Talk

tool) and committed to encouraging principals and assistant principals to respond promptly and document safety concerns.

Safety Staffing, Scheduling, and Contract Adjustments

The team described proposed budget and structural changes including converting some security staff from 245 to 260 workdays to reduce overtime, reducing Defender contract coverage after an analysis of entry points per school, and the implementation of an armed guard and metal detector at WR Rogers is currently underway as approved by the board.

June Board Statistics Scheduling

The group discussed preparing an annual roll-up of statistics, aiming for a draft of the end-of-year public statistics by the first board meeting in June and a finalized presentation be presented at the second board meeting in June. They agreed the public-facing statistics will be presented at the second June board meeting as well.

Transition to Policy Review Agenda Item

The chair transitioned to the review of safety and security policies. She acknowledged the late receipt of materials from SESBA and opened the floor for committee input. The regular fourth-quarter report will be delivered in executive session, and a public-facing annual report will be presented at the second June meeting.

SESBA Recommendations and JICH Concern

Committee participants also noted SESBA-recommended policy updates were circulated late and flagged the JICH Drug and Alcohol Use by Students policy. The removal of the word “possess” prompted legal concerns especially relating to the discipline implications. Requires additional follow-up. The team will review them and raise questions via email.

Policy recommendations will be forwarded to Mrs. Tamika Washington for the policy committee to expedite board approval.

Suicide Prevention and Alternative School Services

Members discussed possible gaps in the suicide-prevention policy relative to district-specific resources and processes, especially services for students sent to the alternative school. Suicide-prevention policy may need local augmentation to reflect district

Legislative Update on School Traffic Direction

The committee requested an update on legislation regarding school traffic direction. Members reported progress in the legislature and agreed to locate and review existing policy language before bringing edits to the policy committee.

Emergency-Preparedness Exercises and Reporting

The team outlined planning for a full-scale emergency exercise with multiple agencies and an after-action review. This will include a tabletop exercise on April 15th and discussions regarding agency coordination limitations. The team confirmed that drill completion and spot checks are tracked and reported in quarterly updates.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am

Action Items:

- * IT team will provide detailed information on network- and device-level AI detection capabilities to the committee.
- * The team will obtain specifics from Lightspeed and the vendor about image and video scanning capabilities and report back.
- * Mark Huhtanen will participate in Richland County SRO training and build an in-service team-building session for principals and SROs over the summer.
- * The team will speak with principal supervisors to reinforce expectations that principals and assistant principals respond quickly to parent safety concerns.
- * Budget lead will include the proposed shift of safety staff from 245 to 260 workdays in the upcoming budget submission.
- * The team will perform an analysis of school entry points and Defender contract coverage and propose scaled-back screening plans over the summer.
- * The team will produce a draft of the end-of-year public statistics for the first June board meeting and prepare the final roll-up for the second June meeting.
- * Niki Porter will contact Miss Cleveland to ask about the rationale for removing the word "possess" from JICH and will report back via email.
- * The team will review SESBA-recommended policy changes this week and share questions or updates with the chair via email.

* Niki Porter will share policy recommendations with Mrs. Tamika Washington for the policy committee to review.

* Committee staff will ask Matt Sherman to review the suicide-prevention/JLD policy and provide recommendations regarding services for students in alternative placements.

* Niki Porter will get an update from Mr. Dennis on the legislation regarding school traffic direction and locate the existing policy to prepare recommended edits.

* Mark Huhtanen will add the school-traffic legislation topic to the summer committee schedule and coordinate a potential quick committee meeting if the legislation moves forward.

* Mark Huhtanen will hold a tabletop exercise on April 15 with key stakeholders and schedule an end-of-day after-action review with Sheriff, Dr. Moore, and leadership.