

PRESTON BOARD OF EDUCATION: SCHOOL SAFETY

MEETING INVITATION

6:00 p.m., March 12, 2018

PPMS Library

On February 14, 2018 a tragedy occurred at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Since that time many voices have expressed concern about school safety and security. In Preston, we have a strong security system. We do not, however, rest on our laurels. We routinely review practices and procedures to determine possible improvements to our practice and our systems. This ongoing routine allowed us to initially respond to concerns expressed. To reaffirm our current practices and develop a broad perspective about new ideas, several meetings have been held. The meeting membership has included (1) resident troopers, (2) administrative leadership, (3) union leadership, (4) a set of concerned citizens, and (5) other staff and parents in informal settings.

There are many caring and committed individuals in our community that are invested in the safety and security of our schools and our town. For this reason, there is no lack of suggested solutions for our school security strategies, processes, and procedures. It is not a stretch to say that there are many options for planning to care for our students, parents and community members. The tapestry that is woven together by mutual cooperation around this important endeavor, for all intents and purposes, includes the entire town of Preston. Thus, the accumulated information, suggestions, thoughts, and concerns were collected and presented to the Board of Education in a confidential executive session.

Analyzing data, remaining calm and forward looking, and selecting prudent well thought out strategies is the order of the day for the district. Distilled from our planning to date are the following board strategies: maintaining a safety mindset, creating a presence, seeking financing options, staff training, materials review, seeking alternatives and continued community support. We are immediately adjusting certain procedures that we have control of and there are some other available options we can act on quickly.

As an additional step in gathering community input the Board of Education will hold an open informal meeting before their next official meeting on **March 12, 2018 at 600 pm** at Preston Plains Middle School in the library. Thank you for your ongoing support.