

Security/Safety Update

Board of Education Meeting
January 8, 2013

Security/Safety Update

- ☞ Safety and security is an ongoing dynamic process of improvement and cooperation between students, staff and the community.
- ☞ Over the past several years the district has implemented improvements to the district's safety/security infrastructure and procedures.
- ☞ A key tenet of the district's activities is the improvement of communications between our own staff, community and the police and fire

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- ☞ Annually the Principal distributes the Building Emergency Management plan to all staff.
- ☞ This Plan identifies respective roles and responsibilities for specific staff members.
- ☞ This Plan identifies staff/student responses to particular types of emergencies.
- ☞ This Plan requires the district to practice all drills twice annually, except for fire drills and school cancellations.

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Examples of Emergency Situations - Drills

- ☞ Fire evacuation/emergency evacuation
- ☞ Lockdown
- ☞ Sheltering
- ☞ Early Dismissal
- ☞ School Cancellation
- ☞ Security Alert
- ☞ Medical Emergency

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Methods of Communication

- ☞ The Building Emergency Plan identifies that the Superintendent will decide the best way to communicate to parents:
 - ☞ Connect Ed system
 - ☞ District website
 - ☞ School phone chains
 - ☞ School phone message
 - ☞ Individual parent telephone calls made by staff

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Examples of improvements to district communication are as follows:

- ☞ Installation of cell phone repeaters (ongoing)
- ☞ Installation of wireless network
- ☞ Implementation of the connect Ed telephone system

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Examples of improvements to district communication are as follows:

- ☞ Replacement of fire alarm system
- ☞ Implementation of photo ID badge system
- ☞ Annual replacement program of hand held radios
- ☞ Replacement of public address system and classroom intercom system

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Examples of improvements to district facilities are as follows:

- ☞ Re-key the building
 - Reduces the possibility of unauthorized persons with building keys
 - Provides for teachers to lock any classroom door from inside the classroom - assist with lockdown drill.
- ☞ Replacement of the intrusion system
 - ☞ Previously doors automatically unlocked when approached from the inside

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Examples of improvements to district facilities are as follows:

- ☞ Provide for remote access to unlock receiving room door and main entrance.
- ☞ Installed room numbers (update fire alarm map)
- ☞ Provide for secure access to building from main entrance foyer.
- ☞ Installation of video surveillance of buildings and grounds.
 - ☞ Provides for searchable archive of events.

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On going activities

- ☞ Conduct annual drills
- ☞ Update of building safety plan
- ☞ Staff development
- ☞ Student instruction
- ☞ Cooperation of staff/students/community to follow district safety procedures.
- ☞ Hiring of security guards.

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Future Plans

- ☞ Installation of electronic gate (gate)
 - ☞ Provide for remote communication with security system. – on-going
- ☞ Installation of additional cell phone boosters
- ☞ Replacement of district telephone system
 - ☞ To provide ability to communicate with authorities by telephone from the classroom.

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- ☞ Our security guard has been re-positioned at the playground during all outdoor recess periods.
- ☞ All staff will wear their ID's at all times.
- ☞ All outside doors are locked and everyone will be directed to sign in /out at the front office.
- ☞ We are again asking parents not to drop off students before 8:00 a.m., as the doors will be locked; no teachers are on duty to monitor them.
- ☞ In addition, Gate 2 will be locked at 8:30 a.m., when our security officer returns to the front desk.

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- ☞ All parents are to come to the front office to drop off students who are tardy.
- ☞ Afternoon pre-k students must be brought through the front office.
- ☞ If your child forgets a lunch, instrument, sports clothing or equipment, please leave it with the security guard, Troy Miller, in the front office. He will contact the classroom for your child to pick up the articles in the front office.
- ☞ We distributed our newest radios to each of our monitors and developed a daily testing and trouble-shooting procedure.

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- ☞ We instituted a method for monitors to broadcast requests for specific forms of support (security, medical, disciplinary).
- ☞ We will also hire an additional monitor.
- ☞ Since we have evening activities and athletic events, we will hire an additional evening security guard. The guard will be stationed in the gym area.
- ☞ If you wish to enter the school after 3:30 dismissal, you must come through Gate 1 and sign in with the security guard by the gym area. This includes pick-ups from the after-school program.
- ☞ It is also important for all families to give us your e-mail addresses; please contact our school secretary, Ryan Nastasi, with your e-mail address.

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Following the Connecticut tragedy we met with our crisis team to discuss how to support our students. We placed information on the web site for our families on how to talk about this tragedy to our children. Some of the recommendations are listed below:

- ☞ Reassure children that they are safe.
- ☞ Make time to talk, but don't push them to talk.
- ☞ Make your explanations developmentally appropriate.
- ☞ Stay calm and let your children know they are safe.
- ☞ Reduce the amount of media exposure for your children about this.
- ☞ Answer your children's questions with simple but accurate answers.

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- ☞ Let children know it is ok to be afraid, but that they are safe at home and in school.
- ☞ Identify one adult that your children can go to besides you to talk with if needed.
- ☞ Observe your children for emotional distress and let the school know so we can support them.
- ☞ Maintain your normal routine as much as possible.
- ☞ Please see our website for additional links on resources for families.