

PUBLIC SAFETY

Objective: The objective of this document is to report the state of Beaverton School District's Public Safety Office programs and projects which directly support a safer school climate across the district. The following report will cover physical categories (buildings, grounds, and property) and operational areas (education and people), as well as challenges, and the 2017-2018 Action Plan.

Physical Improvements

Bond Team Collaboration

The Bond Team has completed phase one security upgrades in thirteen schools and completed punch list items, such as frame touchups and other cosmetic fixes, in nine additional schools. Nine schools are in the construction documentation stage and are scheduled to begin security upgrades after the end of this school year. Eighteen schools remain to be analyzed, designed, and documented.



Elmonica Elementary School vestibule. These vestibules were installed to create a secure entry into the building. Interior vestibule doors are locked and visitors are required to enter through the office for check in.

Public Safety Office upgrades and Emergency Operations Center

The Public Safety Office has moved into a new, larger office in the central office. The new office is over two and a half times larger than the previous office and houses three staff members. The PSO is currently in the process of outfitting the office to also serve as an Emergency Operations Center for use during critical incidents.



Pamela Ashton and Sharon Skrydlak in the new Public Safety Office

Lockdown and Lockout Phone Buttons

IT began the installation of the lockout and lockdown buttons for all school phones across the district in November of 2016. The buttons now make the process of calling a lockout or lockdown easier for staff or students. When pushed, a voice will indicate a lockdown or lockout will be initiated. An alert is then sent to school administrators, front office staff, and central office staff. The system also connects to the intercom and provides a specific message for all those in the school to hear. A district wide lockout drill was conducted on February 23rd which also tested the use of the lockout buttons. The system worked smoothly across the entire district during the drill. As of February 2017, buttons were installed in all schools. Central Office, Maintenance, and the portables will have buttons installed during the week of March 27th.

Operational Improvements

Public Safety Office Staffing

The Public Safety Office has hired two additional positions to support district schools and the central office. The Emergency Coordinator position was created to provide direction in the establishment and operation of a comprehensive emergency management program. The Emergency Coordinator manages the planning, response, and recovery efforts for emergencies and disasters. An additional Public Safety Assistant position was added to support the everyday services provided to the district and schools by the Public Safety Office such as, coordination and communication, criminal investigations, student threat assessment reviews, and access control.

School Resource Officers

We continue to work closely with our partners from Beaverton Police Department and Washington County Sheriff's Office. SRO's from both agencies are a vital resource for our district, assisting with crime prevention, intervention, response, and enforcement activities. Our coordination with both agencies has increased over this past year. Weekly meetings are held with both agencies.

Engagement with Students

The Public Safety Office, in collaboration with the Beaverton Police Department and Community Involvement, continues to work with the BSD Student Leadership group to develop creative methods for educating our staff and students. The current project is a Standard Response Protocol video that covers the four actions: lockout, lockdown, evacuation, and shelter.

The Public Safety Office has also collaborated with staff at Merlo Station High School and City of Beaverton Emergency Management to create a school based Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification program for a group of students to complete. This certification allows students to also participate as active volunteers on the Beaverton CERT team if they so choose. Topics covered in the certification process include, community preparedness, fire safety and utility controls, basic first aid and CPR, search and rescue, and disaster medical operations.

Standard Response Protocol

The Public Safety Office continues to work closely with our law enforcement partners to train staff and conduct drills on the Standard Response Protocol. At least one lockout and lockdown drill is required during the school year. Surprise lockdown drills are conducted in most of our schools, followed by a meeting to discuss what worked well and areas of improvement. These meetings have been very productive and insightful for all parties involved.

All schools across the district participated in the Great Oregon Shake Out event in October 2016. This event gives the district an opportunity to practice the "drop, cover, and hold" safety practice as recommended by the Standard Response Protocol.

Training

The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education, held two courses, Earthquake Planning for Educators and Resilience Training for Educators, in late March to help prepare the district for critical incidents. The audience consisted of district staff, school administrators, bond team personnel, mental health counselors, school psychologists, and community partners.



Standard Reunification Method

On October 14, 2016, district staff and community partners participated in a full-scale parent reunification exercise. This exercise tested the district's plan to process parents and guardians picking up their students in an off-site, controlled release. Full scale exercises are a valuable opportunity to test capabilities and coordinate with our community partners in advance of a critical incident. The district plans to do a similar exercise in the fall of 2017.



IT staff members check in a parent at the full-scale parent reunification exercise held on October 14, 2016

Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School program works with BSD Public Safety Office, Transportation, Community Involvement, Teaching and Learning, Risk Management and Facilities to coordinate with external entities to help make the trip to school as safe, efficient, and as convenient as possible.

The Safe Routes to School program:

- Contributes to monthly newsletters to increase family knowledge and awareness of alternatives to driving to school.
- Examines walk zones for all schools, either in the planning process for new schools or in response to a request.
- Examines arrival and departure flow at schools to evaluate the safety of all users.
- Reviews, trains, and places crossing guards.
- Offers pedestrian safety training for teachers.
- Supports and prioritizes improvements on routes around schools

Safe Routes to School secured a grant from Metro's Transportation Options program and Washington County's Coordinating Council to continue the program until October 2018. Safe Routes to School will be working with district departments and community partners to ensure sustained funding.

Challenges

Training

Time for training staff and students has been a hurdle for the Public Safety Office. Developing a more streamlined approach to public safety and emergency training is vital. While in person, one on one training with staff cannot be replicated, creating an annual video based training on emergency protocols and essential information will be crucial to increasing awareness and better preparing staff across the district.

Campus Supervisors (Monitors)

Campus Supervisors are essential to supporting our students and staff in the schools. The number of campus monitors was reduced by eight in 2009. These positions have not been restored. School Administrators continue to ask for the restoration of these positions to foster a safer school climate.

2017-2018 Action Plan

Emergency Operations Planning

The process of creating an Emergency Operations Plan is necessary for every school across the district. Each day BSD schools are entrusted to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for our over 40,000 students. It is expected that schools will keep all students safe from threats and hazards. An Emergency Operations Plan was developed in early 2016 to create a comprehensive plan for the district, as well as address courses of action for specific threats and hazards. It is still necessary however, that all schools, with guidance from the district, go through an emergency planning process and create plans that will meet their site-specific needs. We hope to pilot this planning process in the spring of 2017 with one school from the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Staff training

During the 2015-2016 school year, all school staff were trained on the Standard Response Protocol. The Public Safety Office will continue to train staff on these procedures and other emergency protocol as we move forward.

Educating Parents on the Standard Response Protocol

The Public Safety Office, in partnership with Beaverton Police Department, will consider effective and creative ways to educate parents and guardians on the Standard Response Protocol.

Exercises and Drills

Exercises and drills are essential to prepare district staff to respond effectively to emergencies. Exercises and drills enhance staff's knowledge of plans, allow staff to improve their own performance, and identify opportunities to improve capabilities to respond to real events. The Public Safety Office is currently planning a tabletop exercise scheduled for April 10th, 2017. This exercise is designed to allow staff to walk through an off-site parent reunification scenario caused by a gas leak at an elementary school.

The Public Safety Office is in the early stages of planning a full-scale exercise for off-site parent reunification in the fall of 2017.

Continued collaboration with community partners and the bond team

The Public Safety Office has developed invaluable relationships with community partners such as Beaverton Police Department, Washington County Sheriff's Office, Beaverton Office of Emergency Management, Washington County Office of Emergency Management, and TVFR. The Public Safety Office will continue to partner with these agencies to facilitate more effective prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities for the Beaverton School District.