

# Rocky Boy Schools

## Law Enforcement Evaluation

### Attendees:

#### Rocky Boy PD

Sergeant Sean Richardson  
lieutenant Kyle Lafromboise

#### Hill County Sheriff

Sheriff Jamieson Ross  
Under Sheriff Stan Martin

#### Rocky Boy Schools

Brian Jenkins

### OBJECTIVE

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The administration team requested a meeting or evaluation with the local law enforcement to see what steps the school can do to be as safe as possible for the staff, students and community. The goal is to come up with an action plan in a prioritized needs assessment that makes Rocky Boy Schools Campus safer and more prepared for a crisis event. The officers and I took part in a round table discussion in regards to standard school safety and protocols that should be standardized in all school or public buildings. Main emphasis is utilizing what does not cost money, for example, locking doors, minimize entrance points and exit points, setting policy and procedures and training staff and students on the policy and procedures that are set. Below is a recap of the physical evaluation by the officers and a list of items that we discussed pertaining directly to addressing the needs on Rocky Boy School's main campus. A future evaluation of the secondary campuses will be followed by this initial action plan along with a more in depth follow up once the initial action plan is put into place. Basically, meaning, they would like to see the school take initiative on the essentials before getting into major needs assessment because most of the safety protocols can be achieved with more action than money to begin with.

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## OBSERVATIONS-IMMEDIATE NEEDS

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These items are listed in the order that the officers felt were the most important things that can be done immediately.

1. **LAW ENFORCEMENT KEY FOBS**-Rocky Boy PD and Hill County Sheriffs departments should have keyfobs for all officers for the entire campus. They currently have fobs for all other schools they respond to. This eliminates them having to find somebody to grant them access.
2. **LOCKED DOORS** – All building entry points should remain locked with a buzz in access system
  - a. **High School- HIGHEST PRIORITY** Front Door is priority #1. It has to be locked at all times while school is in session and have a buzz in system with the front desk having access to the camera that is located at the front.
    - i. A policy and procedures structure and training for the staff that will be answering the door system so they are observing and listening to who is at the door. If they are letting everybody in without caution they are not doing their job. ***This Front door system has been Bid by Northwest Security ( Casey Jones) who handles the security and the door access systems currently and should be acted on ASAP.***
  - b. **Admin Building** – Easy access at all entry points of the building. Need to add call stations at the front and back, or direct traffic to the front with a call station and keep the back for staff only with existing key fob access. Need to do the same with the receiving basement door or lock it and make them come to the front first.
  - c. **Lunch Traffic** - Middle School / High School traffic to the lunch area, should be regulated to one door and the route between buildings should be monitored by multiple staff covering all line of sight areas. The door entering the lunch room at the east side of the elementary should remain staffed during the entire time it is unlocked, or keep it locked with a staff member granting access to the students and closing the locked door behind them. The North Cafeteria door should be treated the same way, it should be locked and used as an exit for the students to go back to the High school building with staff monitoring the traffic at all visible points.
  - d. **Elementary** Right now the front door is securely locked and an entry bell is used with the office staff physically opening the door for guests. This is an OK solution but would be better to have a controlled buzz in camera / lock system like the High school has been quoted on. \
3. **Map and Labeling:** - A to scale map of the campus and eventually all buildings should be created with architectural details for each area/ room that may help law enforcement in a situation such as windows, alternative access options, cameras close by, what communications are in the room/area. The rooms are not clearly labeled in the hallways and should have tags on the door frame or wall according to current building code and should match the master map. This may need to be reviewed from its current labeling system and discussed whether it is correct or needs to be re-labeled. Now would be the time to do so.

4. **Communications**- Currently the buildings are not on the same paging system or have the ability to page between buildings. Ultimately a great long term goal would be to install a system that can “all page” easily. The phone system is connected campus wide. It was recommended that all classrooms/offices have a phone in it and the ability to all page an emergency code. Right now the staff has no way of communicating out of their classrooms, other than personal cell phone. The bus radio system might be a good (temporary) or added option to get an emergency call out to all buildings. A special bell or alarm tone built into the system for a lockdown indicator tone is recommended.
5. **Policy and Procedures** – Technology gadgets and devices will not fully protect our staff and students. Both law enforcement agencies emphasized that action, support, and getting everybody on the same page working under the same plan, policies and structure in regard to safety protocols.
  - a. The school must create an action plan in the event of a crisis situation.
  - b. Structure to what is expected on a daily basis. Locked doors makes more work, but it must be done. Staff must know what is expected and a schedule and structure to the day to day routine must be put in place.
  - c. Classroom doors locked from the outside but able to open from the inside.
  - d. Communication protocol, A further discussion of the communication system is needed, but immediate need of a lock down call being made needs to be streamlined from building to building. A possible special bell tone, as well as office staff sending communications to as many staff members/buildings as possible. (Bus intercom system, Phones. Handheld radios, mass text etc.)
6. **Education** ALICE documents were recommended for policy and procedures. The US Border Patrol has already been notified that Rocky Boy Schools is wanting to take a proactive stance on public safety and they have a great training and education program that is free to the school. They are excited to schedule that and get that in place asap. Both Hill County Sheriff and Rocky Boy PD have continued education and training materials they would like to share asap.

**Items below were discussed items that may take time due to funding or logistics that have to be reviewed:**

7. **Resource Officer** - The Rocky Boy PD has offered to employ a part time resource officer at the School. It may work into a full-time position, but they are sure they can assign one for 3-4 hours per day. This may lead to additional resources they have to offer, including curriculum and education on a consistent basis for students, staff and the community. A suggestion of visiting with Havre on their experience of having a resource on duty full time and what if any cons there are. They are currently paying one half of that officers' salary to keep him on full time at the schools.

8. **Camera System** - There are outdated cameras in the High School that need to be updated/replaced. No other buildings on campus or any other remote buildings have cameras and it is recommended to have all of them on the same system if possible. The new system would be IP systems and options and bids have been requested and or received for a solution for this. A system that can be added to for years to come, quality of cameras and recording, installation requirements, support and warranty, functionality, and cost are all being factors that should be looked upon.
9. **Campus/Playground Fence** - Both agencies agree that it is too easy to access the campus grounds and that the campus and playground areas (middle one especially) is too easy to access for non-authorized visitors. Mostly it is a deterrent tactic to control the traffic of where people need or should go or not go. Along with this would be better signage on the outsides of the building and on the doors advising the public, students, and parents where to go during what times and what areas are restricted or require authorization to be. Also doors that emergency exit only doors.

### **Closing Statement**

Most items discussed and recommended are simple low cost solutions that only require a policy be written to support the needed safety measure or in some cases an item as simple as a padlock on a gate that leads to the playground. It is going to take a firm stance by the board and the administration in getting these procedures into place and becoming natural habit rather than a hinderance or inconvenience. There was a recommendation to check with the Tribe for a special fund that may already be set up for the costly needs. I also recommend discussing with RJS to see if there is a matching funds grants available, if there is tribal funding available. Maybe the dollar can stretch to meet all the needs that will help ensure the school is taking every step possible to protect the students and staff at all times. In closing, both agencies are more than willing to continue the conversation and education of the topic if school safety and any other concerns they can help with.