



To: Board of Education

From: Douglas Whitsel

Re: Safety and Security Board Report, April 2025

Date: 4/1/2025

Dear Board of Education,

As we move further into the school year, I'm pleased to share that things are going well across the district. Both Pierce Lake and South Meadows have successfully implemented the new visitor management system, and the initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The system has enhanced our check-in procedures while strengthening the overall security framework at each building. We continue to fine-tune the process to ensure a smooth and effective experience for all guests, and we're grateful for the dedication of our staff and tech team throughout this rollout.

We're also in the initial stages of installing Knox Boxes at several district buildings. These secure, emergency access boxes will allow first responders to quickly enter buildings in the event of an emergency, further supporting our commitment to safety and preparedness across the district.

Later this month, I will be attending the rescheduled Michigan School Safety Academy. This two-day professional development opportunity will provide valuable insight into a broad range of school safety topics, including:

- Childhood Trauma
- De-Escalation Techniques
- Mental Health and Resiliency
- Suicide Prevention
- Rapid Response Safety Training

In addition to the academy, I will also be visiting Plymouth-Canton Community Schools to learn from their robust and well-established safety and security program. Their comprehensive approach offers a wealth of knowledge and best practices that I look forward to bringing back to our district as we continue strengthening our own safety efforts.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we work together to foster a secure, welcoming, and supportive environment for all students, staff, and visitors.



CHELSEA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHELSEA SCHOOL DISTRICT

500 Washington Street

Chelsea, MI 48118

P: 734.433.2208

F: 734.433.2218

www.chelsea.k12.mi.us

Respectfully,

Doug Whitsel, Director of Safety and Security
Chelsea School District