



CHELSEA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To: Board of Education

From: Douglas Whitsel

Re: Safety and Security Board Report, February 2025

Date: 2/4/2025

Dear Board of Education,

As another month passes, we are eager to begin implementing some of the recommendations discussed at the last board meeting. Members of the administrative team have convened to establish priorities and outline a potential timeline for these initiatives.

One of our first steps is the trial implementation of the Verkada Visitor Management System. This system will require visitors to sign in using an iPad, after which a badge will be printed for them to wear. By streamlining the sign-in process, this system will enhance our ability to electronically document and manage visitors efficiently. The initial testing phase will take place at South Meadow and Pierce Lake, allowing us to assess its effectiveness in both secure and non-secure vestibule environments. While we anticipate this change will have a positive impact, we recognize that it will be a learning process for both staff and visitors. We appreciate everyone's patience and welcome any feedback during this transition.

Additionally, as of January 2025, Governor Whitmer has signed a new School Safety Act into law. This legislation mandates that each school establish a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team, adopt standardized emergency response terminology developed by the Michigan State Police, and receive training from the Michigan State Police on conducting threat assessments. We view these changes as a significant step forward in enhancing school safety across the state. Moving forward, we will begin planning for the development of a threat assessment team while awaiting further guidance from the State of Michigan regarding standardized emergency response terminology.

It is important to note that Chelsea already has staff members who are certified in threat assessment and management, which will facilitate the efficient and timely development of our team. Additionally, I will be attending the Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management course offered by the Michigan State Police to further enhance our preparedness and implementation of best practices.

Doug Whitsel, Director of Safety and Security
Chelsea School District