

River Forest Public Schools

Safety and Security Review Committee *Proposed Recommendations*

Regular Board Meeting
January 22, 2024

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learning and ensure
educational excellence
for every child ”



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Process

- Committee convened to begin process of evaluating District's safety objectives, protocols and resources
- Committee was comprised of:
 - District administrators and school administrators
 - Board of Education liaison
 - Instructional faculty/staff
 - School social worker
 - River Forest Police and Fire Department representatives
 - RF Park District representative
 - School safety/threat assessment consultant

List of Committee Members:

Dr. Kristine Mackey, Board of Education Member

Anthony Cozzi, Chief Operations Officer

Kevin Martin, Director of Technology

Casey Godfrey, Lincoln School Principal

Deputy Chief Dave Bochenek, RF Fire Department

Sgt. Ben Ransom, RF Police Department

Officer Megan Drake (SRO), RF Police Department

Valerie Smart, Willard Education Support

Karen Stille, Superintendent of Recreation, RF Park District

Tiffany Daniels-Hudson, Roosevelt Teacher

Dr. Ed Condon, Superintendent

Bobby Bachar, Roosevelt Teacher

Brittany Yelnick, Roosevelt Social Worker

Joy O'Reilly, Lincoln Teacher

Dr. Alison Hawley, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction

Kristin Bailitz, Lincoln Teacher

Dana Parker, Willard Teacher

West 40 School Safety/Threat Assessment Specialists (Consulting)

- Committee's charge:
 - Assess safety elements currently in place
 - Investigate “best practices” in school safety
 - Determine appropriate recommendations
- Meetings were held on October 24th, November 28th, December 12th and January 10th (along with additional subcommittee meetings)
- District also partnered with West 40 School Safety and Threat Assessment Specialists to perform unannounced assessments on each school building on November 28th, November 30th and December 4th

Primary safety references included the following:

- *Recommendations of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force School Safety Working Group.* Presented to the Office of the Governor April 5, 2018 (Updated March 2020)
- *School Safety and Violent Event Incident Management (SSAVEIM).* C3 Pathways, Inc., October 2022
- *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model, an Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence.* U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), July 2018

** Additional references included as Appendix A in final report*

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Committee divided into three subcommittees:

- Facilities and Infrastructure
- Procedures and Protocols
- Emotional Health and Community Wellness

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Sub-Committee Recommendations

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Facilities and Infrastructure

- Upgrade phone system to VOIP
- Investigate a comprehensive visitor management system
- Re-emphasize and expand daily use of 2-way radio communication
- Upgrade oldest security cameras and add in “dark” areas
- Investigate expanding installation of security window film
- Replace current digital evac floor plans with digital aerial mapping
- Create “physical border” at Willard School, due to current lack of fencing

Procedures and Protocols

- Develop comprehensive staff development plans:
 - CPR and “Stop the Bleed”
 - Incorporate walk-throughs to build muscle memory
 - Initiate lockdowns based on situation vs. location
- Conduct a review of procedures to accommodate scenarios
 - Reverse scenarios (ex. students outside the building)
 - Procedures for clearing a room
 - Medical drills to reinforce AED locations
 - Review of current drills to ensure best practices
- Develop a more detailed school/District reunification plan off-site
- Requiring staff wear ID badges when onsite
- Require Building Engineers to check exterior doors routinely
- Request that RF Police patrol schools routinely during lunch/recess
- Include RF Police and Fire in all drill communication via CrisisGo

Emotional Health and Community Wellness

- Ensure all staff receive training to utilize *Responsive Classroom* and *RMS Student Advisory* resources
- Ensure that community safety instruction (provided by RF Police/Fire) continues in schools
- Continue to leverage community partnerships to promote physical activity and mental health (ex. collaboration with Village entities encouraging safe firearm storage)
- Ensure safety and security agreements about the use of District facilities have clear expectations/goals
- Administer a survey to caregivers to better understand student mental health needs
- Ensure that the District Behavior Threat Assessment process continues to be supported

Next Steps

- Board approval of final recommendations to underscore District's commitment to safety/security
- Develop smaller working group to review and implement recommendations in timely manner
- Implement recommendations on a priority basis



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Questions?

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