

SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 21, 2024, 3:00 PM

McKinney ISD Stadium and Event Center - 4201 S. Harding Blvd, McKinney, Texas 75070

- I. **Call to Order:** Russel May calls the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- II. **Welcome/Introductions:** Russel May welcomed the committee to the 1st meeting for the 2024-25 school year. He recognizes the new members and those who are in new roles of the committee: Jeff Banner, Molly Hovan, Wesley Smith, Robyn Root, Veronica McGee, and Sapna Bhakta. Please refer to the attached sign-in sheet for all members in attendance.
- III. **Closed Session Gov't Code 551.071-551.084.** Russel May called the meeting into closed session pursuant to Gov't Code 551.071-551.084 which states the committee may meet in Closed Session in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The committee adjourns to closed session in pursuant to section 551.076 to deliberate about a security audit or deployment or specific occasions for implementations of security personnel or devices and section 551.089 to deliberate about security assessments or deployments related to information, resource technology, network security information or the deployment of or specific occasion for implementation of security personnel or critical infrastructure or security devices. The meeting is being held in accordance with Tex. Education Code 37.109 (c). Due to confidentiality of the information being shared today and in accordance with Senate Bill 11 Open Meeting Act, the meeting was moved to a closed session.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes for the 06/20/2024 Meeting:** Shawn Pratt made a motion for the minutes to be approved. Robert Montgomery 2nd the motion. All were in favor of the minutes being approved and no one said "No". Minutes were approved.
- V. **Verkada Projects coming to an end:** Russel stated that all cameras and equipment have been installed at all 3 High Schools. There are issues with some not working and these have been sent back for replacement, but most are installed and in working order. Work is being done at the stadium to get the conduit and cable running and the next step will be to install them there.
- VI. **Threats to date:** Russel shared there have been quite a few threats coming in. The abnormal number is with the elementary grades, mainly 10–11-year-olds. We have had a shift change in dealing with these threats. The process of determining whether to arrest or not has been streamlined based on what the actual threat is. If it is a violent, imminent threat, the Police Department (PD) will make the determination to arrest or not and the District will simply report what has occurred. PD makes the decision at their discretion, and it is a consistent policy in dealing with threats. Michael Winters has numbers and will speak about those threats and where we stand.
Michael Winters: As of today, there are 398 recorded threats which are made up of threats to self and threats to others. 47% of the 398 threats are for self-harm. Of the 398 threats, 1/3 are from elementary and 2/3 from secondary level. Special education makes up about 33% of the 398. For Level 1, our most severe threat, we are at 10% or a total of 39 kids who fall in this category.
Russel May: Is there a trend or reason why there are so many elementary students? Last year did not have as many younger students being recorded.

Michael Winters: This is due to the heightened awareness of threats, taking these threats seriously, and filtering through the process to determine whether the threat was eminent or low level. This is not to downplay the fact that we have some students with some serious mental health needs in the District.

Shawn Pratt: After the GA incident, threats around the nation went up. There was an uptick in spoofing incidents and even one of our schools was on the list where there was a threat made from far away. Due to the media/social media attention, there was a rise in threats. This is not necessarily a McKinney problem or a Texas problem, but a nationwide problem.

Jeff Banner: Are those verified incidents that we investigated and that was the outcome or was that threat assessments that were completed?

Michael Winters: This number comes from all incidents that were recorded in E-School. To be recorded in E-school, either it was (1) evaluated as a threat using our threat evaluation tool or (2) a full-blown threat assessment process was completed.

Darla Jackson: If I am 1 person who has made 3 different threats, is that counted as 1 threat or 3?

Michael Winters: 3 separate incidents.

Russel May: We have implemented the new technology, Deledao. Has this new system captured anything as far as students' wellness?

Michael Winters: Concerning the alerting piece on student wellness, we are running a pilot at Slaughter Elementary and Cockrill MS. We are working through the pilot and getting things tweaked with notifications and alerts that will ultimately feed into a threat assessment and the same process will happen.

Melanie Raleeh: How many of the threats at Slaughter and CMS from the Deledao system?

Michael Winters: We do not have that information yet, but I will get that information for you.

Melanie Raleeh: If among the 39 students, are they divided out between threat to self and threat to others?

Shawn Pratt: Deledao is a new software that Stephen Gilvray's group has put in that monitors students. If students are looking at things to harm themselves/others or looking to create weapons to hurt people, the school district will be notified so we can intervene. The new system is much more active than our antiquated system and Stephen's group has been piloting it and adding/deleting things to customize it for the district.

Michael Winters: There is a content/internet filter piece that looks at all students' internet and google search history which has been fully implemented. The second module is the student wellness alerting piece that we are piloting, and it couples the two together to monitor and keep students safe on their devices. It monitors their browser history as well as their google documents if they are typing things out. To answer Melanie's question, of those 39, 32 of them were threat to self that were Level 1 and only 4 were threat to others that were Level 1.

Russel May: Is there anything we can do to be more proactive over the next 3-4 weeks to assist our students who may be more at risk?

Jennifer Akins: Last year, Shelly Spaulding sent out a district-wide communication to parents reminding them of the variety of resources available when school is not in session so they can reach out and get support. We will consider doing this again this year. This is a time when counselors are meeting with kids individually to ensure they know how to get the resources available beyond us.

Russel May: Is the McKinney PD doing anything to communicate this?

Jon Meyer: There is nothing that he is aware of. This is not just a school issue. He has attended Life Path meetings and suicide in the community is going up, which means kids are being affected directly or indirectly.

VII. **Evolv System:** This is a new system, and only been in use for 3 months.

Russel: The overall feedback is "thank you" and there are more positive than negative comments. He asks David Hodum to speak on Boyd's use of the system.

David Hodum: When students come in, they can hand things around the device that may set it off (binder rings, laptops). For the first few days, they were getting a lot of alerts. They changed this to where students only needed to hand them their binder and laptops. Everything else, students will keep as staff will check it. This has become a deterrent to students because they know their things will be checked. They have a pattern now that is seamless. Boyd is unique in shape as the school is longer and athletics is inside, so no separation. Boyd is fortunate as they run it with their staff. He has explained to his staff that it is a known danger to work in public schools. Knowing they have the Evolv System makes it easier for him and his staff to go to work. The students are used to the system and there are very few parent complaints.

Russel May: After 2-3 months, it becomes a standardized way to come into the campus. Each campus is different, the culture/building is different, so all 3 high schools have their own unique system. At McKinney High, teachers were handing the student backpacks to each other and complaining of back/shoulder issues. So, a conveyer belt was installed and tested. It has been working well so these will be installed at North and Boyd as well. This will also reduce the need for 1 staff member. As feedback is coming in, we are making improvements as needed.

VIII. **Id badges:** Russel May asks how things are going at the Middle Schools.

Grace Roberts: They are reprinting numerous badges due to at least 100 students per day forgetting their badge. Administrators are coming up with ideas on how to incentivize students to remember to bring their badges. After Thanksgiving break, students will lose their chance to sit with friends at lunch if they forget their badge. Administrators will track the data for kids not having badges per day to see if this is effective. As of right now, they are printing paper badges for students to wear and keeping track of who is a repeat offender. They will then call home and inform the parents they need \$5 for a replacement badge, and once they get the money, they will print off a new badge to wear.

Russel May: Parents are not happy about kids forgetting their badge and having to go back home to get it for game days at MISD Stadium. He has been able to diffuse their anger by explaining why we require badges which is to protect their students. This helps diffuse the frustration and they are on board. It's just getting them used to the routine. The middle school population has caused the most problems but having badges has decreased the issues. The bottom line, requiring badges is for the kids' protection.

David Hodum: There is a digital ID system that goes with the badge. The issue Boyd has with badges is that if 2 kids look alike, they can pass badges to their friends. Also, they may be in possession of more than one badge. There isn't a way to know how many duplicate badges are out there so the High Schoolers can "cheat" the system. Digital ID's can be scanned and provide an alert if a student has already badged in. David is familiar with this system and volunteered to present this to the group in February.

IX. **Approval of EOP and Annexes:**

Russel May: These documents have been submitted to TEA and TSSC. TEA has implemented the new product called Sentinel. This is the way of the future for us. He has submitted our Annexes and EOPs to TSSC. They gave it to TEA and TEA uploaded it into our portal. There are several pieces in there: Audits, fire drill checks, door checks, and anything having to do with the safety check of a school. There is an audit feature that creates an audit trail per campus. With more than 30 campuses, this is a big task to get all the information in there. Russel is talking to other districts to see how they are doing it. These districts are essentially assigning a principal from each campus to identify individuals on their campus and giving them a specific task. For example, if someone is assigned to fire drills, they will upload all fire drill information to Sentinel. Once Russel understands how all this will work and the best method for maintaining this information for our district, he will send out an e-mail.

Shawn Pratt: Asks if David Hodum can help with the problem of losing so many badges at the middle school level? He wants David Hodum to help with the Amaga System because they may have to factor in the cost of badges into the budget if so many are being lost.

Robert Montgomery: This year we had to submit the basic plan as well as the Cybersecurity plan to the Texas School Safety Center (TSSC). Dennis Womack tweaked it, so it followed the TSSC format. There are a few extra items in there that were not required but now our plan models the TSSC and how they want it. The changes that were made to the basic plan were staff positions and/or titles, and regarding the EOP Annexes, all of them have changed from an administrator's standpoint. Depending on the drill/scenario, there were a lot of names listed, so we made it more title specific. We changed the name of the Security Monitoring Room to the MISD Security Center. In the administrator portion of the annexes, everything streamlined any emergency to the MISD Security Center and put that phone number in there. Stephen Gilvray's group revamped the Cybersecurity plan. This was sent out for everyone to look at so that it can be approved today. There are copies available for anyone in attendance to look over again. Robert asks to vote to approve the EOP.

All were in favor. None were opposed.

Dennis Wamack: He thanked Julie Blankenship for all her work on the EOP's.

X. **Hall Monitors, Security Monitors, Parking Lot Attendants update:**

Russel May: When he started at MISD, each campus had its own assigned group. He likes that all 3 positions fall under one umbrella of Safety & Security yet we still work with High School campuses. Josh Helm, AP from Boyd, is the hi-speed security guy that is on top of things. He knows who is being hired and can collaborate and be on the same page with Security. When a name is brought up, Russel knows who this person is. If there is a potential candidate, Security will interview them, and the campus can provide suggestions and their opinion if this person will fit with their school community. One position is left to be filled at MHS. Having these positions under the Safety & Security umbrella, the training is implemented across campuses. Things may not work the exact same way from campus to campus, but the overall discipline is the same. We want to make buildings look like a soft target, but we want them to be as hard as possible. Thanks to our school board approving these safety features, we are as secure as MISD has ever been. Once Evolv and Verkada and some other things are completely in place, it will make our buildings even more solid and secure. Russel shares a story about the police department looking for a BMV (burglary of a motor vehicle) suspect on the North campus. Using the cameras on campus, the SRO was able to zoom in on the perpetrator's tattoos and facial features and the PD was able to find and arrest the criminal. The vape monitors in the bathrooms have been paired up with cameras enabling us to find who has been vaping on campus. Regarding our hall monitors, we are all on the same page. Hall monitors are being cross trained to be security monitors as well as parking lot attendants. If there is an absence, someone can fill in any spot. Russel asks if there is anything else that needs to be discussed.

Erica Wright: There was an incident at the beginning of the school year concerning a lockdown. The night crew didn't know what to do. She asks if we can make a video for them in their language since many do not speak English and they are visual learners. She is hiring and firing so many, having a video to show them and train them in the event of a lockdown would be very beneficial.

Russel agrees and adds that during an incident at Cockrill MS when the lockdown button was accidentally pushed, the kids didn't know what the flashing blue strobes were as students are always in a classroom when the strobes go off. There were many lessons learned from this incident including dealing with parents outside, students in the hallways, and doors being shut. In the debrief, all of this was discussed. Russel will look at how to get these training videos produced.

Dennis Womack feels we need to do a CRAS (Civilian Response to an Active Shooter) Training with the custodial staff.

XI. NEW DATES - 2024-2025 Safety and Security Committee Meeting

February 18, 2025, at 3pm at CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM

June 17, 2025, at 3pm at CEC

XII. **Adjournment:** Russel makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sapna Bhakta seconds the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:46pm.