

Community Update on Recent Events

Okemos Board of Education 2/13/23



Agenda

- Review of Incidents
- Gratitude
- Proactive Measures
- Opportunity for Learning
- Community Support

'I feel safe:' Okemos students return to classes

Mark Johnson, Lansing State Journal



Review of Incidents

Law Enforcement:

- Chief Ken Plaga
- Sheriff Scott Wrigglesworth



Overview of February 6-10

MONDAY	CORNELL Alleged death by suicide on school grounds <i>Preparations made to support students & staff on Tuesday. Due to swatting incident, this was delayed.</i>
TUESDAY	OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL Swatting incident <i>All schools locked down and dismissed early. Chippewa 7th graders on bus to camp returned to district.</i>
WEDNESDAY	ALL SCHOOLS - No school (district) Mental health support for staff and students/families After school activities resumed Chippewa 7th grade camp resumed
THURSDAY	ALL SCHOOLS Mental health support for staff and students at all schools, therapy dogs at Cornell & OHS
FRIDAY	CORNELL & OHS Mental health support for staff and students, including therapy dogs

Key Points

District emergency response protocol & Law Enforcement resulted in the following actions:

- All schools were locked down immediately by administration.
- Law enforcement presence at all sites where students were present.
- Communications were coordinated through law enforcement.
 - Accuracy of communications critical
 - Occurred promptly once law enforcement provided go ahead
- Family reunification was prioritized across the district.

Gratitude – First Responders

- Ingham County Sheriff's Office
- Michigan State Police
- East Lansing Police Department
- Lansing Police Department
- Michigan State University Police and Public Safety
- Lansing Township Police Department
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Meridian Township Fire Department
- East Lansing Fire Department

Gratitude – Okemos Public Schools

ALL STAFF AND DEPARTMENTS

- Okemos Education Association
- Association of Okemos Administrators
- Custodial & Maintenance Staff
- Food Service Staff
- Okemos Transportation Association
- Media and Technology Staff
- Leadership, Directors
- Select Staff
- Childcare Teachers and Staff
- Librarians
- Paraprofessionals and Aides
- Guest Teachers
- Administrative Assistants and Clerks
- Okemos Woof Pack

Gratitude – Community Partners

- Caregivers for their patience as we worked through protocols and systems and had to adapt frequently
- Ingham Intermediate School District
- Dean Transportation
- 2|42 Community Church
- Jackson Northwest, Grand Ledge Public Schools, Canines for Change, and Veteran Service Dogs for providing their therapy dogs to Cornell and OHS.
- Local businesses
- EduStaff
- Sparrow and McLaren hospitals for preparing for what could have been the worst.
- .

OPS Strategic Approach

5. Increase understanding, awareness, and acceptance of visible and invisible social/emotional health and related matters.
6. Further identity and develop policies, procedures, and practices that promote healthy students and staff, safe schools, and a strong culture of understanding and inclusiveness for all.
7. Implement additional proactive strategies to assist students, families, and staff in accessing school social emotional supports and outside mental health services.
- 10A. Provide safe, secure and well maintained learning environments. Evaluate condition and safety of current facilities, grounds, technology, resources.

Current Safety & Security Measures

- Prevention/Threat Assessment with Dr. Margaret Coggins
- Facilities/Response with Jason Russell, SEC

NOTE: FOR SECURITY PURPOSES
NOT ALL MEASURES ARE SHARED

Per best practices and expert recommendations, the following measures have been implemented over the last few years:

- Emergency Operations Plans
- Hired experts to assess practices (SEC, Coggins)
 - Bi Weekly meetings with district team occurring
- Drills- fire, tornado, lockdown, cardiac response drills
- Partnership with MTP on drills
- MERT response teams
- Run, Hide, Fight training
- Cameras
- Panic buttons
- Buzzer systems
- Electronic door locks
- Door numbering
- Radios
- 3M Film on windows/doors
- BrightArrow communications
- Design and implementation of secure vestibules
- Connection to Tower-Pinkster, Christman, Veridus
- General School Security Grants
- SRO, School Mapping Grants
- Summer active shooter exercises in schools
- Walkthroughs and visits by MTP
- OPS Code of Conduct

Supporting the Whole Student

Based on best practices, the following measures have been implemented over the last few years:

- Trauma-informed practices
- Threat Assessment practices
- Youth Mental Health First Aid
- Signs of Suicide
- Addition of counselors, Student Support Advisors
- SEL curriculum
- My SAEBRS screening tool
- Increase funded student clubs
- Bullying, Title IX investigations
- Restorative measures
- Release of Information for coordinated supports
- Inclusion of SEL standards on elementary report cards
- Neurosequential Model for Education (brain science)
- Okemos Woof Pack
- Keep the Pack Safe Event
 - (distribution of trigger locks)

Jason Russell

Secure Education Consultants



- Former Secret Service agent
- Provides security assessments to schools, businesses and organizations
- Assists during crisis situations, including mass shootings and security threats
- Working with the Michigan Legislature to bring forward critical funding for K-12 site assessments
- Serves on Michigan's School Safety and Mental Health Commission
- National speaker on emergency preparedness

Consulting with District Since 2021

Dr. Margaret Coggins

M. H. Coggins & Associates



- Over 30 years of specialized experience in the prevention of targeted violence, threat assessment, behavioral analysis, and change management
- Subject matter expert in workplace violence prevention programs; school and campus safety
- Approach emphasizes proactive prevention and intervention strategies to mitigate risk
- Consults on best practices to achieve safety and security objectives.
- In the aftermath of 9/11, Dr. Coggins was appointed as a Deputy Assistant Director of the Federal Air Marshal Service.

Consulting with District Since 2022

Opportunity for Learning and Sharing

Opportunity for Learning

- Meridian Township Police
- Experts will guide debrief with Okemos
- Process for feedback with staff, law enforcement and community (update to be shared as specifics are known)

Opportunity for Sharing

- Continued learning & training for staff
- Community sharing
(Not all learnings will be shared publicly)
- Countywide sharing with other districts and law enforcement, and beyond

Tentative Process & Timeline

Goal: *Gather feedback, identify themes and develop actionable next steps*

Responding Agencies Feedback

Jason Russell has been asked to coordinate feedback with all law enforcement agencies on behalf of the district.

District Feedback

- **Weeks of February 13 and 20th**

Meet with Security Experts to develop feedback process for district

- **Monday, February 27th**

Jason Russell, District Parent Council, 12-2:30 pm,
OHS

District Parent Council Meeting 7

Community Support

Build and maintain relationships

Coach, volunteer, mentor, share

Secure your firearms

ATF Report

Support the mental & physical health of our children

Use your voice

See something, say something

*Provide feedback to OPS, communicate
with elected officials*

OPS Security Assessment Summary- SEC

“SEC believes that the Okemos Public School District *has done a remarkable job in developing and executing extremely comprehensive safety and security plans, and it currently provides very safe and secure environments for its staff and students.*

It was obvious to SEC that there has been a significant amount of thought and effort put in to successfully integrating sound physical design features with comprehensive policies and procedures. It was evident during the site visits OPS has developed a strong and productive working relationship with its local police partners that has enhanced the ability to prevent or respond to emergency situations. SEC commends Okemos Schools on its strategy to enhance existing physical security measures and to expand on both safety and security related equipment and emergency protocol training regimens.”