

Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Meeting Summary Notes

June 19, 2018

Facilitated by:

**Laura Norman, Emergency Management Specialist
Galveston County Office of Emergency Management**

The purpose of the Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Committee is to review, research and recommend options to develop meaningful, action-based recommendations to improve the safety and security of Santa Fe schools. The purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss options that support three important themes outlined by Governor Abbott.

Dr. Leigh Wall, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their participation in working together to strengthen the safety of students and staff safe in SFISD schools. Following each meeting, the District will prepare a summary of the work the committee is doing and share with committee members and post on the Santa Fe Interactive Web Portal. The District is open to any and all of the suggestions and information recommended in these working meetings and through online feedback. Santa Fe ISD encourages all of the committee members to bring forward their ideas and recommendations for consideration.

Welcome, Introductions and Discuss the Purpose of Today's Meeting

Laura Norman reviewed the agenda for the first meeting that provided an opportunity to review all safety and security options and do some quick brainstorming on each of the three topics including: **Hardening the Schools, Policy Changes** and **Support Services**. Norman stressed that this work is just the beginning of the discussions about options and information sharing these topics.

Santa Fe ISD Police Chief Walter Braun reviewed a snapshot of the District's Safety and Security Plan prior to 2018, and what was previously planned for the 2018-19 school year.

Chief discussed protection strategies such as situational awareness, up-to-date Crisis Management Plans, Campus Safety and Security Audits, Intruder Assessments, District-wide staff training, scheduled safety drills, active shooter protocols, etc. The SFISD Crisis Plan is divided into three sections that include:

- Multi-hazard crisis management plan
- Emergency Responses Guide for All Staff Members
- Critical Incident Response Plan for Selected Staff

Chief Braun also provided an overview of the current security measures including fire drills, intruder/active shooter drills, severe weather drills and annual intruder assessments, and the options for hardening the schools. All SFISD Police Officers receive ongoing Alerrt Level One and Two training; fire arms training; secure weapon and rifle training; participate in drills with all campuses; provide CRASE training to the public; and provide training on District crisis management to all staff.

The District performs an internal safety and security audit annually, and the District performs a required safety and security audit that is submitted to the Texas School Safety Center every three years.

In the 2018-19 school year, Santa Fe ISD will have 13 police officers. The District currently uses the TCU Alert System, a mass communication program public announcement system used by Texas Christian University to provide alerts in emergency situations such as intruder lockdowns, lockouts (in which perimeter doors are locked at schools), weather-related emergency closures and delays, and drills.

Safety and Security improvements previously planned for the 2018-2019 school year:

- Researching the school marshal program
- Providing individual classrooms with trauma first aid supplies
- Providing CRASE class training to all employees starting in 2018-19
- Increasing Police department staff (2)

Examples of the initial actions following May 18, 2018 to improve Safety and Security include items such as:

- Initiating process to hire five additional police officers and five civilian campus safety assistants to assist with physical security of building
- Researching dual/active shooter alarms, and other technology for active shooter warning systems
- Exploring building design modifications with architects to include fencing
- Providing equipment for additional police staff

The topic for the first brainstorming session was **Hardening the Schools** and discussion points included but were not limited to: equipment, personnel, facilities and other ideas.

Committee members divided into table groups to discuss the topic and capture all of the ideas that the table discussed and then begin to prioritize the ideas. Participants were reminded that these lists are not an exhaustive list and were encouraged to take the time to research their ideas and return next week ready to discuss them.

The second brainstorming session was **Policy Changes** and discussion points included but were not limited to: dress code, backpacks/purses, school marshals, social media, and other topics.

Rachel Blundell, Santa Fe High School principal, shared options for feedback from the groups on possible dress code modifications including options such as standardized shirts, spirit shirts, pants, clear or mesh backpacks.

The third brainstorming session topic was **Support Services** and discussion points included: mental health support access, threat assessment team, positive behavioral interventions and support, trainings such as Stop the Bleed, CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events), Incident Command for School Administrators, and other ideas. It was determined that additional information regarding mental health support will be reviewed at future meetings.

One example discussed was the potential use of a Threat Assessment Team that allows all stakeholders who have contact with students to receive training that provides tools and reporting features to help meet the emotional needs of identified students.

Dr. Leigh Wall closed the meeting at 5:00 pm and thanked the committee for the great conversations and the ideas shared to improve the safety and security of the SFISD schools. The committee was

reminded that some recommendations have timelines associated with them, and the District will need to move forward as soon as possible with recommendations to the District and the Board for implementation. The timelines discussed were centered on making improvements for the 2018-2019 school year that included purchasing, implementation and communication.

Next steps include establishing priorities based on brain storming feedback and research information. Summary notes and a survey will be sent to the virtual support team as well as posted on the interactive portal for feedback.

Committee Members present included: Captain Philip Meadows, Dr. Jackie Shuman, Melanie Johnson, Joseph Miller, James Grassmuck, Bobby Wylie, Deputy J. Rivas, John Rothermel, John Couch, Richard Baker, Jeff Summers, Beth Yolando, Garret Foskit, Bob Atkins, Richard Davis, Chris Harrison, Ryan Kopp, Recie Tisdale, Patrick Kelly, Jennifer Tisdale, Jody Davis, Jessica Hagedwood, and Pastor Tim Gregory, Dr. Leigh Wall, Chief Walter Braun, Rachel Blundell, Gary Forward, Melissa Tucker, and DPS Sgt. Paul Adkins.

Proposed future meeting dates are: June 25, July 10 and July 16.

##