

SANTA FE ISD

SAFETY MATTERS

Santa Fe ISD Safe and Secure Schools Update

October 26, 2018

On Wednesday evening, October 24, we sent our staff and parents an email message around 9:30 p.m. about a suspicious item found behind the high school that was reported to the police earlier in the evening around 6:45 p.m. The message we sent was not meant to alarm you, but rather to keep an open line of communication and remind our entire school community that we will always take immediate action when any report is brought to our attention. After a thorough investigation, including the use of explosive detection canines, we were pleased to find out that the item did not pose any safety threat. It is also important for our students to know that they can and should always report anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or threatened to an adult so that appropriate actions can be taken. We thank you for working together with Santa Fe ISD to continue to make our schools positive learning environments for our students and staff.

October 23-31 is Red Ribbon Week in Santa Fe ISD

The SFISD Board of Trustees approved October 23-31, 2018 as “Red Ribbon Week” with a theme of “Life is Your Journey. Travel Drug Free.” Alcohol and drug abuse in the U.S. have reached epidemic states, and Red Ribbon Week was celebrated in Santa Fe ISD and every community in America to support a commitment to drug-free lifestyles. Activities that promote drug and/or safety awareness are a part of Red Ribbon Week to make a visible statement to students that our community is strongly committed to a drug-free Santa Fe ISD. [See campus specific activity lists.](#) More information about the [national campaign.](#)

Santa Fe ISD Board approves additional safety and security improvement

Earlier in the week, the Santa Fe ISD Board of Trustees met on Monday, October 22, 2018 and approved several agenda items totaling more than \$129,400 that will help improve safety and security at Santa Fe ISD schools. These safety and security improvements include:

- **Two Police Vehicles** – The Santa Fe ISD Police Department needed two additional vehicles to complete its fleet, and provide sufficient response capability for the officers. The Board approved the purchase of two used and refurbished 2016 Ford Explorer Police utility vehicles, with installed emergency equipment at a total cost of \$39,998. The Board had already approved the acceptance of a donation for the police department from the Moody Foundation, which will cover the cost.
- **SFISD Police Body-Worn Cameras** – The Santa Fe ISD Police Department also needed to replace its body-worn cameras, which exceeded their life expectancy, which included 13 body-worn cameras, this cost was also covered by a donation from the Moody Foundation.
- **Additional sections of fencing at the high school football stadium field house** – To effectively manage and support a safe school program, additional sections of fencing are needed at the high school football stadium field house. The roll up garage door, located on the east side of the field house, is

accessed multiple times throughout the day by staff and students. On several occasions, community members have gained access to the field house and football field through this door. Since the door is very heavy and being used daily for ice, water and storage, expanding the existing fencing to the front of the building will increase security and alleviate the need for opening and closing the door numerous times throughout the day. The cost of the material and installation approved was \$3,913.56.

- **Replacement of all four-foot fencing at Kubacak Elementary** – Additional sections of fencing are also needed at Kubacak Elementary to improve safety and security. In the 2017-18 school year, the District added a 35-inch section of fencing to enclose the north playground of the school. The fence was installed to match the existing fencing, which is currently four feet tall. In order to raise the school's security level, the District requested that all sections of four-foot fencing be replaced with six-foot fencing. This new fencing will span the entire exterior perimeter of the campus and be installed in the same place that the current four-foot fencing sits. The cost of the fencing materials and installation approved was \$17,316.61.
- **Bus Security Camera Systems** – To improve safety and security for students and staff, all route buses and special needs buses will be equipped with REI camera systems with each system containing six state-of-the-art surveillance cameras. The District has 24 buses that have REI camera systems in place and with the approval of 20 new REI cameras, this will complete the installation of REI cameras for all regular and special needs buses in the fleet. The seven spare buses will have AngelTrax cameras installed. The system will facilitate daily ongoing checks of the camera system and its operational status, as well as lot-based Wi-Fi access to cameras. The cost for the equipment and on-site system installation is \$64,122.
- **Zonar Systems that provide electronic monitoring for school buses** – Zonar Systems provides Santa Fe ISD the ability for the District and parents to electronically monitor and track the health, safe operation and location of buses. Parents will be able to download an App that will allow them to know when their child gets on and off the bus using student badges, as well as knowing the GPS location of their child's bus. Zonar Systems and the National Association for Pupil Transportation awarded Santa Fe ISD a discount of \$25,000 toward the purchase of the Zonar equipment. The total cost of the equipment and initial set up is \$56,267.05 and the discount reduces that amount to \$31,267.05 plus the yearly service fees of \$28,800. This system will be phased in gradually and fully operational for the 2019-20 school year.

As a reminder, the Resiliency Center provides free long-term services at no cost to Santa Fe community members and is open to serve the Santa Fe community. The Center's caring professionals provide a safe and supportive healing environment dedicated to everyone affected by the May 18 events. As a referral hub, the Center works with partner agencies that provide spiritual care referrals, training, advocacy, legal aid, equine therapy, recreational therapy, and more. The Resiliency Center is open daily, and for more information, contact the center directly at 409-218-7129 or email cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us.

Questions?

Please submit any questions you may have to the Santa Fe Strong Interactive Web Portal at: santafeupdates.com/contact-us

United, we are Santa Fe Strong!