

SCHOOL SECURITY FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY  
July 21, 2015

Opening comments by Representative Wendy Horman provided background and direction for the group relative to the expectations of Senate Bill 1189 and the \$300,000 pass-through from the Department of Education to the Division of Building Safety. She emphasized that the work being done is directly related to the growing concern of the need for a School Safety and Security Resource Center.

After acknowledging the need for open, constructive criticism in order to enhance the threat assessment process, Brian Armes served as the facilitator to keep the group on task. The ensuing discussion provided the following noteworthy and actionable issues.

- Suggestion that more communication in advance of an assessment would ease some of the concerns of superintendents and principals over being “audited”.
  - Utilize superintendent network to enlighten more individuals about the purpose and impact of the assessment process before arrival at a school.
- A prioritization of the issues addressed on the executive summary would be helpful.
- A follow up face-to-face question and answer session would be very helpful.
- Districts regulate budgets for their schools. The assessment becomes a tool at the district level by setting spending priorities relative to security issues for the schools within a district.
  - The assessment is an effective tool to garner community support for financing of security improvements.
- Consensus that there is an appreciation for the depth of the assessment. Evaluating the school “community” is an important factor critical to understanding potential threats to a school campus.
  - Suggestion that spending some time interviewing students could contribute to understanding the school community.
  - Include the school’s accreditation assessment in the report as part of community assessment.
  - Encourage schools to develop a safety team and to include parents.
  - Determine if the school has an RTI (Response to Intervention) program in place.
  - Need to standardize the Security Resource Officer. (Comment with limited discussion)
- Need to include a glossary for acronyms.
- There was general support for the concept of a school safety/security resource center.
  - Include a website with online information
  - Ability to get an answer or research an answer to questions.
  - Provide training on request.
  - Depository for funding options. SDE has considerable grant opportunities.
  - Maintain an inventory of donated equipment and manage the dissemination thereof to relevant schools.
  - Concern expressed by SDE for needing more boots on the ground than just Guy and Brian.
  - Support for Resource Center being housed at DBS.
    - Ties in with Safety program already in place.
    - One stop shop for safety and security concerns

- Including readily observable security issues on the regular Division of Building Safety annual inspections would be helpful.
  - The Division is moving to a checklist format for safety inspections that will include a number of security items.
  - This would provide a scheduled report card and serve as a reminder to review the full assessment.

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