



**SAUGATUCK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMMITTEE – SCHOOL SAFETY

MINUTES

September 24, 2024

This meeting is a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee – School Safety of the Board of Education held in public for the purpose of conducting the School District's business and is not to be considered a public community meeting. There is a time for public participation during the meeting as indicated on the agenda.

PLACE OF MEETING: Douglas Elementary School Upper El Learning Commons
261 Randolph Street

TIME OF MEETING: 6:00 pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Amanda Frank called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Frank Marro III, Eric Birkholz, Amanda Frank

Dr. Tim Travis, Candy Crabill-Klynstra, Dr. Mark Smaller

3. ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA

No additions or changes.

4. JOINT STATEMENT OF CHAIR AMANDA FRANK AND SUPERINTENDENT DR. TIM TRAVIS

Amanda Frank and Dr. Travis gave a joint statement regarding the inadvertent lockdown that occurred at DES Elementary the previous week. Dr. Travis answered questions from the committee.

5. COMMITTEE GUEST

- a. Kim Root - Michigan State Police, Office of School Safety, Section Manager**

[Ms. Root's presentation was moved to the end of the agenda due to Ms. Root's unavoidable delay in arriving.] Kim Root joined the Office of School Safety after more than a decade in Huron Valley School District - a district with over 8,000 students. At Huron Valley, Ms. Root served as the Executive Director of School Safety. Ms. Root did not have a law enforcement background prior to taking on that role. Ms. Root set forth a six-pronged "School Safety Framework," which includes: (1) mental and behavioral health, (2) health and wellness, (3) physical safety and security, (4) culture, climate, and community, (5) leadership, law, and policy, and (6) operations and emergency management. Ms. Root emphasized that school safety is not one specific thing we do as school districts. Instead, it is a series of things we do over time and must involve a multidisciplinary approach to be successful. The goal of the School Safety Framework is to invest in each bucket, and in doing so, a district is investing in prevention. She emphasized that investment in school safety must focus on mental health. In discussing Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management teams and processes, a critical component of a comprehensive School Safety Framework, Ms. Root noted that often where schools falter is the "management" component. She explained that this is the heart and soul of BTAM, and this is where mental health and other resources come into play. She went on to discuss in detail the other five prongs of the School Safety Framework. She made note of several Michigan State Police Office of School Safety resources that are available regarding the various prongs of the framework, and she provided guidance and clear examples in her discussion of each. Ms. Root emphasized that while no district is ever going to be perfect with respect to school safety, districts must continue to evolve and make progress. When asked how to prioritize investing in prevention, given the six areas that need attention, Ms. Root, noting that prevention is key, emphasized (1) mental health resources, (2) culture, climate, and community, (3) MTSS services, and (4) other investments in keeping children off the pathway to violence. When asked what the most important factors are for a district when considering what police-involvement model is appropriate for the district, Ms. Root explained that the MSP Office of School Safety does not advocate for a particular model, but important factors to consider when selecting a model are (1) response time due to proximity (noting that there are rural districts in the UP that would have a response time of 30 minutes without an SRO on site) and (2) response time due to capacity of the local police force (noting that in very large counties, county sheriff offices can be at a stretched capacity that lead to untenable response times). She explained that the Office of School Safety has, in the past, provided grants to place SROs in some districts. She emphasized that decisions regarding police-involvement models in a district must be locally driven. She noted that some SRO programs have been very successful, and the key to that success has been building relationships. However, she explained that, regardless of the model chosen, safety and

security of a district is not the job of one person, it is a shared responsibility in which everyone in the district must play a role. She explained that there is no one size fits all model. She said that ideally there would be one person in the district that takes the reins regarding the School Safety Framework, ensuring that everyone in the district is fulfilling their responsibilities and that the district is making continued progress regarding each bucket. When asked about how Safety Directors have been employed in smaller districts like SPS, she noted that more and more small districts are using a sharing model where the smaller districts share a Safety Director with one or more other districts. She noted that retired police and military personnel are not automatically school safety experts. Instead, anyone chosen for a Safety Director role must, in addition to understanding safety, know how schools work, how to build momentum with staff, and how to embed in a school. She noted that finding the right person is key - if the fit is right, knowledge regarding school safety can be gained through conferences and a multitude of resources, including (1) NASRO (National Association of School Resource Officers), which provides resources not just for SROs, but for non-SRO employees that serve school safety functions like a Safety Director and (2) the Michigan State Police Office of School Safety. She emphasized the need for effective communication with parents regarding school safety issues. When asked if an SRO is tasked with being a district's "safety director" how to ensure an SRO is prepared to take on this role, she noted again the NASRO training, TEAMS school, as well as training created and provided by the MSP Office of School Safety. When asked for examples of best practices regarding prevention that have directly prevented school violence, Ms. Root noted that there are many examples in which the OK to SAY tip reporting line has prevented school violence. Ms. Root offered to be a continued resource to the committee and district administrators.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

a. General Update

Dr. Travis provided an update regarding school safety related communications that were sent out to parents last week. He also updated the committee regarding the teacher survey, which is now complete and results are being compiled. Dr. Travis informed the committee that a post-incident meeting would be taking place between Dr. Travis, DES building principal Michaelle Gust, and Douglas Police Chief Steve Kent this week regarding the inadvertent lockdown that occurred at DES. The goal of this meeting is to examine what went well and what needs to be improved.

7. DISCUSSION

a. Final report discussion

i. Continue discussion from the last meeting

The committee continued its discussion regarding final report draft mechanics and writing responsibilities.

b. Data collection

i. Follow up discussion

Eric Birkholz provided the committee with updated information regarding data collection.

c. Stakeholder input

i. Follow up discussion

Dr. Travis addressed this item in his superintendent report.

d. Legislative and executive update

i. Amanda Frank to provide update on school safety legislation and executive branch action related to school safety

Amanda Frank reported that there has been no movement on pending school safety legislation.

8. ACTION ITEMS

a. Minutes

i. Approve minutes from 8.27. 2024 School Safety Committee meeting

The minutes for the 8.27.2024 meeting were approved.

b. Upcoming meetings

i. Select dates for additional meetings

The October 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm meeting date/time was confirmed and additional dates/times of October 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm and November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm were selected as future meeting dates.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were received from four community members. The first two comments addressed the inadvertent lockdown at DES and expressed concerns regarding various aspects of the district's response. The third response also addressed the inadvertent lockdown at DES and expressed approval regarding the district's response. The final comment also addressed the inadvertent lockdown and expressed a desire to have school safety be a top priority.

10. UPCOMING DATES

[October 15, 2024 at 6:00 pm, location to be confirmed - this meeting was discussed earlier in the meeting]

October 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm, location to be confirmed

November 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm, location to be confirmed [However, just after the meeting was adjourned, a conflict with this date was noted by an administrator. The conflict will be addressed at the committee's October 15, 2024 meeting.]

11. ADJOURN

Amanda Frank adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Frank

