



**WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
July 14, 2015**

**6:30 P.M.
Central Office**

Committee:

Michele Kaish (Chair)
Rachel Juliana
Yingchao Zhang

Administration Liaison:

Gerard Dalton
Russ Schumacher
Dave Aderhold

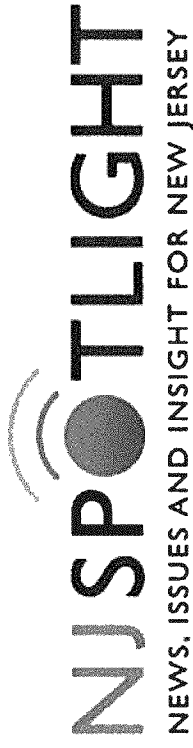
Guests:

Nancy & Ron Forrest

1. CIEE Exchange Student Request – A family from the community presented their request to host an exchange student from Italy for one school year through an approved exchange program, CIEE. The Committee supported moving the request to the full Board.
2. Millstone River PTSA Donation of Replacement Benches – The Millstone River PTSA has requested approval of a donation of benches to replace worn and broken ones in an outdoor area. The cost of the benches will be in the range of \$4,000 to \$4,500. An agenda item is proposed to accept the donation in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.
3. Approved Rates for Outside Child Study Team Evaluators – Administration presented the rationale to adjust the rates for outside evaluators to remain more competitive with other school districts in the area. These evaluators are utilized when district staff is not available and statutory timelines for special education evaluations must be met. The rate changes proposed are: Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultants (LDTC) - \$450, for an increase of \$100; Speech-Language Evaluators - \$350 for an increase of \$50; Social Workers - \$325 for an increase of \$50.
4. Scout Project - Dr. Aderhold discussed a proposed Scout project for approval allowing an Eagle Scout to create an updated electronic schematic of High School South for school and district use.
5. District Goals Review – The Committee reviewed the district goals with the revisions made following the recent Board retreat – some editing of wording was suggested.
6. Merit Goals – Dr. Aderhold and Mr. Dalton reviewed their proposed merit goals for the 2015-16 school year. The merit goals will be submitted to Mercer County Superintendent for approval.
7. Potential Committee Dates – The Committee reviewed the proposed list of committee dates and agreed to the schedule.

8. Retreat Dates - The administration requested committee members review the proposed retreat dates and provide feedback to the Superintendent.
9. School Security – Mr. Dalton provided information from the New Jersey School Security Task Force Report. The report was recently published and offers recommendations to school districts. The top three recommendations were highlighted in a NJ Spotlight article. Administration will continue to monitor these recommendations as possible facility and budget impacts.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. at Central Office



SCHOOL-SECURITY TASK FORCE'S REPORT RECOMMENDS MEASURES TO BOLSTER SAFETY

JOHN MOONEY | JULY 13, 2015

While calling for giving staff and students ID and access cards, panel hedges on armed personnel and silent 'panic alarms'



Two years after it was formed, the Christie administration's task force on school security has issued a 59-page report with 42 recommendations for making the state's public schools safer.

Many of the recommendations were predictable or even redundant in the context of existing laws and guidelines, including calls for better coordination with law enforcement, better communication during emergencies, and better (and smarter) design of new school buildings.

But several of the suggestions were noteworthy, both for what they did and did not recommend that the state require of its schools.

RELATED LINKS

[NJ School Security Task Force Report](#)

[Panic Alarm Legislation](#)

Here are three of those recommendations:

School security staffing

The big question facing the task force, which was formed after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Connecticut, was whether New Jersey schools should start having armed security in

every building to prevent similar tragedies.

The task force said yes -- and maybe.

On one hand, the group recommended that schools to work with law enforcement to “develop strategies for the placement” of police school resource officers (SROs) in all school buildings. And it offered some guidance for arming other security personnel.

But the report stopped short of recommending that the state require armed security personnel, saying the cost and implementation would be different for each community and should be considered locally.

Bottom line: the report said local districts should make the call, but encouraged the practice.

“Provided that carefully selected and appropriately trained personnel are assigned to protect the safety and security of school personnel and property, the concept has merit, and there is an increasing sense among law enforcement and educators that SROs are effective in protecting people and property,” the report read.

Panic alarms

Since Sandy Hook, the closest that New Jersey has gotten to significant changes in state policy has been with use of “panic alarms” in schools, which would essentially alert police to an emergency with the punch of a button.

With overwhelming majorities, the state Legislature has passed legislation to require such silent alarms, including emergency lights outside school buildings.

But so far Gov. Chris Christie has twice vetoed those bills on the grounds that the task force would be reviewing the idea.

7/14/2015 11:43 AM



TRAGEDY IN CONNECTICUT SPURS SCHOOL-SAFETY RESPONSE IN NEW JERSEY

The task force said it supports the concept but that the state should not require the panic alarms, citing the strengths and weakness of each system, and the potential cost to school districts. A fiscal analysis of the legislation said such a statewide requirement would cost between \$2.5 million and \$12.5 million.

“While the Task Force recognizes the potential value of panic alarms in alerting law enforcement to school emergencies, due to the significant variations, capabilities, and costs of these systems, as well as their different strengths and limitations, the Task Force believes that, prior to any State mandate for their implementation, more research is needed on the State and/or local level to determine what types of systems will be most effective given the unique needs and resources of individual school districts and the law enforcement agencies that serve them,” it concluded.

Identification and access cards

One of the report’s strongest recommendations calls for issuing identification and access cards to all staff and students, something that is not uncommon now but is hardly standard practice.

The report said all staffers should be required to wear ID cards that are “clearly visible at all times while in the building.” It also recommended that districts have systems in place to screen visitors against sex-offender registries.

Its recommendation for children was that districts each develop their own system for students to wear the IDs, maybe in conjunction with meal cards or other such programs.

The report did not recommend some of the high-tech systems that are popping up in schools, including retina or other biometric scanners installed at school entrances. It said such technologies, at this point, are “ill-suited” in terms of schools’ unique needs and requirements, and that further advances and research are needed.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED ©2014 NJSPOTLIGHT

