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Joe Wayne Walker
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Ryan Neves
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Steve Moss
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MINUTES BAY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP March 5, 2018

SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP – SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

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Present: School Board Chair Ginger Littleton; School Board Vice Chair Steve Moss; School Board Members: Jerry Register and Joe W. Walker; Superintendent Bill Husfelt and Attorney Franklin Harrison. School Board Member Ryan Neves was absent.

Chairman Littleton called the workshop to order at 10:31 A.M. She stated that she appreciated that the Principals were in attendance and thanked law enforcement for participating in the workshop. The challenges that must be met will take a community effort.

The Superintendent introduced Chief Mike Jones and Sheriff Tommy Ford and stated that law enforcement and the Principals are currently overwhelmed with threats of school and student safety. School safety is not a new concern – guns and violence are everywhere. The Superintendent outlined the agenda and reminded the audience that this is a workshop with suggestions for security. The School Board will ask questions. Franklin Harrison stated that Florida Statute allows for a closed Executive Session afterwards the workshop to discuss safety concerns and solutions.

Mike Jones began with a PowerPoint presentation.

- **Who We Are And What We Do**
Fingerprinting, communications, law enforcement, emergency management during storms, hazardous material and waste, operation center, staff training, operate school and transportation cameras, and complete all federal and state mandated safety and security reports.
- **2013 Florida Statutes 1006.07**
District School Board duties relating to student discipline and school safety

Florida Statute 1006.07 (4) (b) states: The district school board shall establish model emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures for the following life-threatening emergencies.

Safety plans for these 4 situations:

1. Weapon-use and hostage situations.
2. Hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills.
3. Weather emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms.
4. Exposure as a result of a man-made emergency.

- **Elementary School SROs**
Currently have 4 employees shared between the elementary schools and 17 new black police cars that are parked in front of schools and moved constantly.
- **352 School Cameras at 22 Schools**
The camera system monitors all schools and are adding additional cameras. Currently, there are 4 to 8 cameras on each bus.
- **SkyGuard Weather**
Real time inclement weather and reports to staff members if threatening conditions are in the area.
- **GoGuardian Smart Alerts**
This is a filtering software on all Chromebooks. Keywords will alert and send a message to the Office of Safety and Security and the staff will send alerts to school staff.
- **School Safety Concerns**
Terrorism is the concern with the ability to attack a large group of children with very little resistance that produces a great amount of media coverage.
- **How Can Administrators Help?**
Be alert and know your classrooms and school. Report anything that does not seem right and keep a constantly updated and continually reviewed School Safety Plan.
- **Homeland Security New Social Media “See something, say something” campaign**
- **Bay District Schools Emergency Procedures Quick Reference Guide**
It is posted at all schools. Lists all major concerns and 5 bullets for action.
- **School Board Policy Visitors 2.115**
Any person, other than an employee or student of the school, entering the premises of the school shall report immediately to the office of the principal. Permission must be obtained from the principal or his/her designee before proceeding.
This rule shall apply to all visitors, parents, and salesmen and may not be disregarded except in case of an emergency.
- **Raptor**
All visitors are required to submit their driver’s license to be scanned into Raptor. The system will identify sexual offenders.
- **ID badges**
There are 2 types of Bay District School badges – an employee badge and a contractor/ vendor badge. Both have had their fingerprints cleared through the State of Florida.

- **School Safety Drills**
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of Education have recommended that schools move beyond a simple lockdown-only plan and integrate the survival options of **Run-Hide-Fight** into their plans and training.
- **Training and Exercise Policy and Procedure Changed**
10 drills are required: 7 Fire Drills, 1 Severe Weather Drill, 1 Lockdown Drill, and 1 Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Drill.
- **Shelter In Place**
This is a response to a suspected chemical spill which is posted in the classrooms and the main office. Walker asked about fencing at all schools. The Superintendent stated he is working on closing access to all schools. Each school has unique challenges to attempt to close it in and have only 1 access point. Walker stated that he does not want the “fox to get in the hen house”.
- **Communication and Emergency Notification**
The district is dropping the IRIS alert system and will begin using Alertbay (EOC) and Everbridge in the next 60 days. It will be much more efficient and cheaper.
- **School Safety Proposals (State Level)**
Governor Rick Scott has proposed funding for a SRO or SRD at every school (2 in the high schools) with no gap in coverage. School hardening is another priority for funding from the Governor. Mental health initiatives are being addressed as well.
- **Other Suggestions**
Access control, security cameras, arming teachers, mental health, access to medical records such as Baker Act information, enhanced background checks, and gun control.
- **What We Must Do: Implementing A Layered Defense To School Security**
It must be multi-layered and have a robust safety culture. We need to enhance law enforcement coverage on campus and take drills seriously. Increase tactical options for teachers and staff. Moss asked about arming teachers. Jones responded that it would be hard to detect who is the enemy and must be the best kept secret if done. He said that certain staff members are qualified but will be a separate discussion. Improve teacher and student training. Mental health counseling – what can be done to assist with guidance counselors. Register asked how we stop problems before they occur. The Superintendent stated it comes down to funding for programs. Improve emergency communication. The proposed changes will continue to provide Bay District Schools with up-to-date and enhanced plans for response and recovery in the event of a crisis.

Mike Jones introduced Sheriff Tommy Ford who thank you to the School Board for their forethought on the issue of school safety. He introduced the app **School Guard** which provides an immediate notification of an armed intruder by the

teacher. The app is partnered with Bay District Schools and the Sheriff's Office. Every law enforcement officer has the app on their phone and each school has an account. Once the alert is activated, every law enforcement officer in the local area will respond. The Sheriff mentioned that the Bay County Sheriff's Office holds robust active shooter trainings and holds scenarios at the schools every summer. Moss questioned if the officers will actively engage the shooter, not wait outside. Ford stated the response will be a unified command with multiple agencies responding such as EMS, fire, etc.

- **What we need to do right now**

Superintendent wants to find funding to hire off duty law enforcement officers. It would cost \$250,000 from the Reserve Fund. Sheriff Ford has reached out to other law enforcement agencies to assist with working at the schools and they are willing. The Bay County Sheriff's Office is paying for 2 additional deputies to rotate among the schools.

- **Other recommendations**

The Superintendent would like to front office security projects and camera systems which will cost \$4 million. Littleton asked if a side of some schools would still be open and Husfelt responded that each school has challenges. He would like to fund more mental health resources for students. Younger students are dealing with more. Long term safety solutions are needed for schools located next to busy streets. He is looking at a solution for law enforcement to enter schools quickly and easily in the event of an intruder.

- **Survey**

A survey went out to all Bay District employees to poll their thoughts on these issues. 2200 staff members replied. 57% of employees are in favor of specially trained teachers to carry guns on campus. 40% would be willing to take training. Almost half chose funding mental health resources as their #1 priority for funding.

- **In Closing**

The recent events have taken a toll on all personnel. The good news is that Bay District Schools has great partnerships with the community. The task at hand will not be quick or easy but we must work together. Our strength lies in working together.

- **Discussion**

Littleton stated that swipe locks (for police officers to access the schools) are expensive but she feels it is necessary and the Board needs to do whatever it takes to secure the schools. She told the staff to go for the gold and bring all proposals back to the School Board. Safety is expensive and hopefully the Legislature will see the need to fund these items.

Moss stated that safety and security are a priority and must fund it accordingly. He asked if this would be a reoccurring item on the budget each year. Superintendent Husfelt shared that Bay District School is one of the few districts that pay 100% of security and gave credit to the School Board for seeing this as

a priority. Lee Walters has researched and will continue to research all proposals before they are brought to him.

Register shared that he thanks the Principals and teachers for all they do every day for our students. He feels safety is first and then the teachers are able to teach.

Walker said we must keep kids safe while we teach and he wants campuses secure. He stated that we must monitor the gate to all campuses and do our best to keep the fox out of the hen house.

Franklin Harrison shared that Broward County will share information on what they learned from the shooting as it is received. He said that if there is an armed staff member in a school and it takes approximately 3 minutes to locate a shooter that is armed with an AR15, the intruder can shoot 270 rounds in those 3 minutes. The key is keeping an intruder out of the school. The shooting in Parkland lasted 6 minutes. It is a daunting task.

Littleton shared that the School Board has a different perspective than most since the shooting in 2010 and are very focused on this issue. She never thought she would ask educators to be first responders. She ensured the community that the School Board will do the best they can to make the schools safe.

At 11:47 a.m., Chair Littleton stated that the School Board Workshop would stand in recess as the Board entered into private Executive Session for discussing Security Purposes and then would return to adjourn the meeting.

The Executive Session began at 12:05 p.m.

Those attending the Executive Session were the five School Board Members, Superintendent Husfelt, and Attorney Franklin Harrison.

The Executive Session concluded at 12:20 p.m. and with no further business scheduled to come before the Board, Chair Littleton adjourned the School Board Workshop at that time.



Ginger Littleton
Chair

Steve Moss
Vice Chair



Bill Husfelt
Superintendent