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MINUTES BULLYING SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 6, 2018 BOARD ROOM

Present: School Board Chair Ginger Littleton; School Board Vice Chair Steve Moss ; School Board Members: Jerry Register, and Joe W. Walker; and Superintendent Bill Husfelt. School Board Member Ryan Neves was attending via conference call.

The workshop began at 9:00 a.m. with Superintendent Husfelt and School Board Chair Littleton commenting on the issue of bullying in and outside of the schools through social media.

Director of Communications, Sharon Michalik, introduced Panama City Beach Police Intelligence Unit Supervisor Lt. J.R. Talamantez and Investigator Tiffany McCullough and Bay County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division Lt. Kevin Francis.

Cyberbullying – Panama City Beach Police Department

Lt. J.R. Talamantez and Investigator Tiffany McCullough presented a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Parents Against Predators".

He stated that this is the first generation of internet parents. Currently, 78% of teens have cellphones and 81% of those use social media. On average, 8-18 year olds use 7 hours 38 minutes of entertainment media each day. 75% of students report sharing personal information to complete strangers on internet.

Facebook is the most popular social media being used. Students are two people: the one person you can control and the one that is on the internet which is braver and take more chances than you realize.

Numerous apps unknown to adults. Apps like Afterschool are anonymous posting apps for students about their schools. Parents are unable to access this app. A slide shows that numerous apps are disguised to appear as an app for a 6 year old child such as a picture of giraffe or a smiling sun.

Lt. Talamantez shared that the website Safesmartsocial.com is most beneficial for parents to learn about the numerous apps available to children. The website separates them in green, gray and red categories.

Many apps are breeding grounds for criminals and cyberbullying due to anonymous posting ability. Some red zones apps are: Kik, Tumblr, Ask.fm, Afterschool, Calculator% (looks like the calculator but hides photos), and Sarahah (a Saudi company and powered by Snapchat) in which the person receiving and seeing harmful posts and cannot respond which leads to cyberbullying and is popular in the middle schools.

Lt. Talamantez demonstrated the red zone website OmeGLE.com which allows users to talk to strangers. All chats or videos are anonymous and anyone can access it. He shows a chat video live and states he is a 13 year old girl and immediately sexual content is presented to the “13 year old girl”.

More red zones apps are being added every day without footprints. Online predators are all ages, races, religions, etc. and online looking for victims. Remember you, as parents, set the rules. The police can't arrest these predators fast enough and the kids are being exposed to so much!

The Dangers of Drugs – Bay County Sheriff's Office

Bay County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Division Lt. Kevin Francis stated that his presentation is for the students. He is in the narcotics unit and explains the different drugs on the street in terms the students can understand.

He stated that anyone can become addicted after the first try. What is a drug? It is a substance that affects Central Nervous Center. Currently, alcohol most abused drug. Everyday 28 people die due to DUI. Cannabinoids are marijuana which is being legalized but still illegal while driving a motor vehicle and has penalties and synthetic marijuana or spice (liquid sprayed on a substance) also known as bath salts and flakka. Syrup “Lean” is cough syrup mixed with codeine and has been used by celebrities in the news and has resulted in overdose deaths. Opiates, heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil (elephant tranquilizer), stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine use were explained. Lt. Francis also spoke about club drugs such as MDMA- pill or powder “Molly”, GHB date rape drug, LSD and synthetic LSD. Many are stealing prescription drugs to use such as pain medications, Xanax (mixed w/ Fentanyl) which is a large problem in Bay County. Drug overdoses investigation just by the BCSO in 2017 were 126 people. 175 people die every day from overdose nationwide. Lt. Francis explains to students that it all comes down to the decisions you make and path you take.

Bullying for Students – Jerry Tabatt & Lt. Myron Guilford

Jerry Tabatt is President of Crimestoppers and explained that 2 years ago it was decided that every school will have an anti-bullying process in place. Crimestoppers does a presentation once a year in all the middle schools and high schools. They are working on a presentation to go into the elementary schools to present for 4th and 5th graders. Tabatt stated that many 7-9 year olds already have the app [Sarahah](#).

The presentation explains to students what it takes for predators to easily find them on the internet. Per day, 160,000 students nationwide stay home due to bullying. The need is to educate both bullies and victims. Crimestoppers has an app to report tips on


bullying anonymously: P3Tips.com. The tips are sent to a location out of town and then sent directly to the School Resource Deputies. It follows a chain to the Principals of that student's school and to the Superintendent and dealt with immediately.

Currently there are 42 apps and climbing circulating around the students/schools. Many parents are using a cellphone as a babysitter. Tabatt feels that if they have helped one student, they have done their job. He invited the School Board to the next Crimestoppers meeting which is held on the second Tuesday at noon at the Bay County Sheriff's Office.

The workshop concluded at 11:03 a.m.



Ginger Littleton
Chair



Bill Husfelt
Superintendent