

Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Meeting Summary Notes

June 25, 2018

Facilitated by:

**Laura Norman, Emergency Management Specialist
Galveston County Office of Emergency Management**

The purpose of the Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Committee is to review, research and recommend options to develop meaningful, action-based recommendations to improve the safety and security of Santa Fe schools.

Welcome

Dr. Leigh Wall, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed the committee members and thanked them for their continued participation in working together to strengthen the safety of students and staff in SFISD schools. She discussed the focus of the second meeting centering on immediate, short-term safety and security solutions for implementation for the start of the 2018-19 school year.

Following the meeting, the District will prepare a meeting summary of the work the committee is doing and share with committee members and post on the Santa Fe Interactive Web Portal. A survey was sent after the first meeting to those on the virtual support committee and those who completed the survey on the Santa Fe Portal. The District was pleased that more than 250 individuals shared their thoughts, and the survey feedback was made available to the Safety and Security Committee members to assist them in their work. The District will continue to use the surveys to get feedback and suggestions from the community.

Discussion of Meeting Objectives for Meeting Two

Laura Norman reviewed the agenda for the second meeting that provided an opportunity to identify priorities and to create objectives.

The committee was asked to share their thoughts about top priorities for life safety to include items that would need to be completed before school starts, because they will need to be purchased, delivered and implemented. These priorities need to be developed into solid, actionable objectives.

Committee members had an opportunity to research the options discussed in the first meeting, and were asked to use that information to help develop life safety priorities.

Overview of Research

Santa Fe ISD Police Chief Walter Braun discussed the research gathered from another district that has been using metal detectors since 2009. Assistant Chief Gary Forward shared some of the insights in using metal detectors and that the district mainly used metal detectors in entrances to junior high and high schools. The research also centered on how many entrances were used at each school for metal detectors, the types of backpacks used by students, what type of staff operated the metal detectors and if the metal detectors were used at extracurricular events.

If metal detectors are determined as a top priority for Santa Fe ISD, a company has volunteered to provide an assessment of Santa Fe High School to determine the equipment and training recommended to operate metal detectors at no cost to the District. The company will also provide a donation to Santa Fe ISD. The metal detectors could be installed and operational by the start of school in August.

Working teams develop priorities

The topics discussed by the working teams were **Hardening the Schools** and **Policy Changes**, which are both life safety priorities to have implemented for the start of classes for the 2018-19 school year. These top priorities will be put into SMART goals (S-specific, M-measurable, A-actionable, R-realistic, and T-time sensitive) and part of Chief Braun's Santa Fe ISD Safety and Security Plan.

Participants were reminded that these priorities are not complete lists of safety and security options, but were the first to have implemented by the start of school. The priorities the committee discussed included:

- Adding police officers in the junior high and high school hallways and entrances prior to the start of school.
- Installing metal detectors at the junior high school and high school, and limiting access to the building before school starts, which will include staff training.
- Providing training on and enforcement of all current policies, including those relating to dress code and the use of student IDs.
- Installing external and internal door locks and updating the security alarm systems.
- Monitoring student social media in coordination with trained counselors throughout the school year.
- Updating the security systems by installing items such as panic buttons, intruder alarms, door alarms on non-entry doors, security cameras and an alert to dispatch when alarms are tripped.

Next, Laura Norman introduced Melissa Tucker, Chief Executive Officer, of the Gulf Coast Center, which is the Local Behavioral Health Authority for Galveston and Brazoria Counties. Melissa spoke briefly to the committee. The Gulf Coast Center is one of 39 state Behavioral Health Authority Centers that serve communities throughout Texas. The Gulf Coast Center initially established an emergency hotline number that continues to be solely dedicated to the Santa Fe community. The Gulf Coast Center is working toward adding capacity for the Resiliency Center at the Methodist Church and putting a more permanent structure in place to provide mental health and support services.

At the next meeting, the committee will review and finalize recommendations and determine immediate objectives regarding Hardening of the Schools and Policy Changes. The committee will also discuss Mental Health and Support Services. After that, the committee will continue to address the remaining priority issues and concerns.

Next steps also include establishing the objectives as SMART goals. Summary notes and a survey will be sent to the virtual support team, as well as posted on the interactive portal for continued feedback.

Laura Norman closed the meeting at 4:00 pm and thanked the committee for the great conversations and the ideas shared to improve the safety and security of the SFISD schools.

The Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Committee Members include:

Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Committee

Name	Title
Joseph Miller	Parent
Richard Baker	Parent
Chris Harrison	Parent
Jody Davis	Parent
James Grassmuck	Parent
Jeff Summers	Parent
Tony Bloomfield	Parent
Jessica Hagedwood	Parent
Melanie Johnson	Parent
Rosie Yanas	Parent
John Couch	Community Member
Bobby Wylie	Community Member
Jim Abney	Community Member
Ryan Kopp	Santa Fe Jr. High, Principal
Rachel Blundell	Santa Fe High School, Principal
Beth Yorlano	H.S. Counselor - Staff
Rusty Norman	School Board, President
Patrick Kelly	School Board, Member
Jennifer and Recie Tisdale	Santa Fe ISD - Staff
Richard Davis	Santa Fe ISD - Staff
Tim Gregory	Ministerial Alliance
Melissa Tucker	Gulf Coast Center
Dr. Leigh Wall	Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Jackie Shuman	Asst. Superintendent Curriculum & Inst.
Bob Atkins	Exec. Director of M&O
Chief, Walter Braun	SFISD Police Department
Asst. Chief, Gary Forward	SFISD Police Department
Captain, Philip Meadows	Santa Fe Police Department
Sgt. Paul Adkins	DPS
Officer, J. Rivas	Galveston Co. Sheriff's Department
Garrett Foskit	Galveston Co. Emergency Management

(The Santa Fe Strong Committee members were selected based on their positions and the agencies they represent, as well as others who were randomly selected from the parent and community groups they represent.)

Proposed future meeting dates are: July 12 at 3:00 pm and July 16.

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