

Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Meeting Summary Notes

July 12, 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

Discussion of Meeting Objectives for Meeting Three

Laura Norman reviewed the agenda for the third meeting that provided an opportunity to identify recommendations for the start of classes for the 2018-19 school year to go to the Board. After that, the group will work in three subcommittees to continue the committee's work on **Hardening the Schools, Policy Changes, and Mental Health Support Services.**

Finalizing Recommendations for the start of school

The committee was asked to verify the priorities expressed in the last committee meeting and indicate whether or not they are in agreement or want to add others. They were also asked to finalize priority decisions necessary for the start of school including metal detectors and dress code. After listening to vendors, both metal detectors and dress code recommendations can be implemented before the start of school. We need to do our very best to be ready for the start of school, and this is just the beginning of the work.

A question was asked about some of the Committee's priorities that went to the Board on July 10 for consideration and action. Dr. Wall explained that anything that went to the Board on July 10 was time sensitive and plans were already in place to address those issues. Some of these items such as building redesign, door locks, panic buttons, etc. coincided with priorities of the Safety and Security Committee that needed to go forward to be ready for the start of school.

Mental Health Support Services

Next there was a discussion about mental health support and resources for students and staff as school starts.

Melissa Tucker, Chief Executive Officer for the Gulf Coast Center, talked about the Coordinated Mental Health Responses' efforts that are intended to support and encourage the transformation of the May 18, 2018 traumatic experience into a process of rebuilding for the individuals, families, school district, and the Santa Fe community. The discussion held included services provided within the temporary mental health response, as well as the pending permanent structure proposed through the application of Victim of Crime funding.

Dr. Julie Kaplaw, Director of Texas Children's Trauma and Grief Center, presented an overview of important factors to consider when developing a trauma-and grief-informed school environment.

Dr. Kaplaw also reviewed key factors when considering trauma, as well as grief and recovery for those who have experienced traumatic death.

Trauma and Grief Informed School training includes:

- Recognizing that students and staff may be traumatized and/or grieving.
- Trauma reminders (loud noises, sudden movement)
- Loss Reminders (students and teachers not in class)
- Consider substitute teachers on-hand for extra classroom assistance.
- Clinician's on-hand to support anyone having adverse reactions.
- Encourage participation in self-care by students, faculty, and staff.
- Openly and directly discuss challenges, fears, and worries.
- Re-establish sense of safety and security
- Monitor Social Media
- Create "safe spaces"
- Trauma-informed risk screening
- Training for faculty and staff
- Carefully monitoring students who do not return to school right away or who are not attending class regularly.

Recovery – caring for students and staff who are recovering from May 18. The Safety and Security committee was asked to talk in their groups and reach consensus on their priorities for the mental services needed for both short term and long term needs for trauma recovery, grief and ongoing recovery from the trauma.

Threat prevention - The committee was also asked to meet in groups and reach consensus on their priorities about prevention such as social media monitoring, threat assessment and other prevention services. What does the community need to put in place to prevent another school shooting? What have they learned to prevent future violence in schools?

Recommendations to the Board of Trustees

The consensus of the Safety and Security Committee was to bring recommendations forward to the Board of Trustees for their consideration concerning Metal Detectors and Policy Changes for the 2018-19 school year.

The committee members signed up to participate in subcommittees in the areas of **Hardening the Schools, Policy Changes, and Mental Health Support Services** for future meetings.

We appreciate the continued work of the Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Committee.