



Information Memo: Safety and Security Updates

TO: School Board

FROM: Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent

December 17, 2019

Overview

The District's commitment to continuously improve safety and security practices is a critical priority that involves all members of our school community. We are grateful for the partnership of the Winnetka Police and Fire Departments and work in close collaboration to ensure that emergency preparedness and best practices are in place. A summary of activities, agreements, processes and procedures implemented since the November 27, 2018 update provided to the Board includes:

[Annual Safety Meeting](#)

On November 12, 2019, members of the Winnetka Police and Fire Department met with building and District safety team members to engage in the annual review of emergency operations, crisis response plans, protocols and procedures as required by Illinois School code. New this year was an amendment to The School Safety Drill Act mandating schools conduct active shooter and threat drills, with law enforcement present, within the first 90 days of school. This meeting provided time to debrief on this drill as well as others conducted. Additionally, safety team members and first responders participated in tabletop exercises, working together through emergency scenarios designed to facilitate communication, problem solving, and increase awareness and preparedness. During this meeting, the team also had the opportunity to discuss learnings from the New Trier high school lockdown that occurred on November 8.

[Intergovernmental Agreement for Reciprocal Reporting between the Winnetka Police Department and The Winnetka Public Schools Board of Education](#) - page 183

Approved at its August 26, 2019 meeting, this agreement was entered into "for the purposes of promoting safety, security, and order for the staff students and premises at

the School District and of establishing a cooperative relationship between the School District's and the Village's law enforcement efforts."

[STOP The Bleed Kits and Training Received](#)

Winnetka Fire Department Chief Berkowsky informed attendees, at the New Trier Township Safety Summit, of the STOP the bleed campaign that emerged as a "national emergency response goal to improve victim survival following mass shootings and other intentional acts of mass violence." This campaign began in the aftermath of Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, CT, where it was recognized that victims died from severe bleeding that if controlled, might have helped save lives. The White House launched a national public awareness campaign with a "call to action to begin training more people to become immediate responders until professional help arrives." In response, prior to this school year, the Illinois State Board of Education through its Regional Offices of Education distributed one, North American Rescue Bleeding Control Kit to every public and private school instructional building (k-12) in the state as part of a school safety initiative. While training opportunities are still being developed, the District is fortunate that officers within the Winnetka Police Department have been certified to provide STOP the bleed training. On October 7, 2019, Officer Helwig provided training to members of school and district safety teams on how to "stop the bleed" and utilize the bandages and items provided in the kit safely and expediently. As an incentive to conduct training, the regional office offered additional kits to schools that completed staff training. With over 50 staff members trained on October 7, 2019, the District was able to receive an additional 5 kits per building. Next steps include offering STOP the bleed training at school staff meetings and increasing the number of kits available within each building.

Threat Assessment Compliance

While the District has had internal procedures in place to monitor and respond to risk of harm situations, Illinois School Code, added by Public Act 101-455 requires School Districts to implement a threat assessment procedure by December 24, 2019.

Administration, in conjunction with the Policy Subcommittee, had agreed that this requirement would best be accomplished through an administrative procedure associated with Policy 4.170: Safety & Security. The Public Act also provides that the procedure must include the creation of a threat assessment team and the deadline to establish this team is February 22, 2020.

Director of Student Services Beth Martin, and Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Board, Linda Wehrheim, met with school social workers to integrate current risk of harm assessment practices within more comprehensive threat of violence assessment tools. [The procedure](#) is in final review with administration, psychologists, and social

workers and will be in place by the December 24, 2019 deadline. A multi-disciplinary threat assessment team has been identified and will meet in January 2020.

District Reunification Plan

Establishing a District Reunification Plan was an initiative outlined in the November 2018 safety update to the Board. A detailed reunification plan utilizing the toolkit provided through Iloveyouguys.org (an organization recommended by the Winnetka Police Department) has been developed in collaboration with reunification site administrators, Chief Hornstein and Deputy Chief O'Connell from the Winnetka Police Department and Chief Berkowitz and Deputy Fire Chief, John Ripka, of the Winnetka Fire Department.

2-Way Radio Upgrade

To improve communication capabilities within the buildings, the District has invested in approximately 50-60 new 2-way radios this year and upgraded four radios per building, including the District Office with a dedicated channel that allows for direct communication with all buildings in the District at one time.

Lanyards

Last year, The District piloted utilizing lanyards for all faculty, staff and visitors to wear while in the building. Incorporating feedback provided during the pilot period, the practice has been fully implemented. Each person in the building is provided a visible color-coded lanyard to wear at all times when in a District 36 building for easy identification. This is a practice that has been implemented in districts throughout the state to increase security. Visitors are required to present their Photo ID upon entering a school which is processed through the Raptor Visitor System, exchanged for a red lanyard, and returned to the visitor upon exit.

Emergency Call System

In August 2019, to meet ADA compliance standards, The District transitioned to a new website that is part of the Blackboard Connect platform. The Blackboard Connect platform provides the ability to message quickly and efficiently. Using the C.O.P.E. methodology (Create Once Publish Everywhere), communications can be pushed to students, staff, parents, and community partners via text, email, phone, and even via an alert on the District website. Another piece of the communications platform is a mobile app that will launch in January 2020.

In addition to the website launch, The District implemented a new VoIP phone system, Rival 5, in 2018. The new system provides robust safety features including an enhanced paging system (paging a single telephone, a group of telephones, or the entire organization) and 911 locations services pinpointing location to a specific classroom rather than a "zone."

Ongoing Training

In addition to our partnership with the Winnetka Police and Fire Department, the District engages in ongoing professional development to network and learn best practices and improve our processes and protocols. On November 13, 2019, *Assistant Principal, Ben Horwitz*, attended the Secret Service's Threat Assessment Conference. *Executive Assistant to Superintendent and School Board, Linda Wehrheim*, attends school security conferences and presentations held regionally and at the Joint Annual Conference by the Illinois Association of School Boards. With the opportunity to learn from other districts within the state, Linda led a panel discussion at this year's conference on [Operationalizing Safety and Security within our schools](#).