

School District of Santa Rosa County

Report to the School Board:

District Best Practices School Security 2018-2019

Wednesday June 20, 2019

Good afternoon members of the Board and Superintendent Wyrosdick.

The Department of Safety recognizes the importance of providing a safe, secure and healthy environment for all District students, staff, and visitors and to ensure the school district is prepared to effectively respond to all emergencies that we might encounter. We do this by constant review of safety and security practices of the school district.

This evening I want to present some of the findings of recent assessments and make appropriate recommendations to identify strategies and activities that the school district should implement to improve school safety and security.

The District has a history of leading by use of Best Practices in safety and security, whether that be in use of new and or improved technologies, hardware, building design, training or other areas, but unfortunately many times Best Practices come to be defined after a tragedy. The shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida is a recent incident that challenges everyone to reevaluate how our students and schools are protected. Many ideas, though sincere and well-intentioned are not always practical, legal or the best methods available.

Our goal is to have our partner public safety agencies and others related to education add to Best Practices in those specific domains. We work closely with local, and state agencies to ensure that our School District meets regulatory requirements and utilizes preventative safety measures. We'll continue improving our school security risk assessments (Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool –FSSAT) annually so that we are able to derive timely and useful information about safety and security concerns at individual schools so that deficiencies can be corrected expeditiously, and improvements made to other areas.

We are meeting, and many times exceeding best practices related to the safety and security of our students, employees, visitors, buildings and programs, recognizing that our students are only with us 6-7 hours a day

We will continue many currently used and accepted strategies for safety and security, others will be modified, and some will be new changes.

The district has done a good job working on physical security, notification, response, and preparedness. Now we need to focus more strongly on mitigation through personal interaction with students in schools through staff and councilors. Our best defense against a man-made incident is having a trusting student body with a cadre of trained adults that can listen and intercede on their behalf quickly before trouble occurs.

Strategies and Actions taken

- ✓ Threat assessment teams in every school, training for those teams is occurring
- ✓ Mental Health Awareness training. Trainers have been trained, training teachers and others has occurred and will continue to occur.
- ✓ Each school has a 'Safe School Officer'
- ✓ **Emergency Drill procedures have changed. We have modified practices to comply with current law.
- ✓ Training for active shooters has been conducted in all schools by our law enforcement partners
- ✓ Single Point of Entry access control implemented at all schools.
- ✓ Closed Circuit TV cameras will continue to be added.
- ✓ "Speak Out" mobile app that allows students and others to report concerning behavior anonymously.
- ✓ Began student listening sessions
- ✓ Emergency notification system procured
- ✓ **Safety Standard Operating Procedures have been shared with all staff and faculty and addresses issues both listed above and some that are not being discussed in public.
- ✓ Stop the Bleed training offered to all faculty.
- ✓ Trauma bags provided each school
- ✓ Common terminology
- ✓ School Safety Committee stood up and meeting monthly
- ✓ Promotion of Speak Out app and FortifyFL app.
- ✓ Creation of Incident Management Team (IMT)
- ✓ Procured single sign in/reunification software for schools

Recommendations to the School Board

- Continue to add closed circuit cameras
- **Continue to refine drills by age group
- **Implement summer training for staff in YMHFA and active shooter
- Continue student listening sessions
- **Continue to implement procedures in SOP and refine them where possible
- Promote "Speak Out" and "FortifyFL".
- **Utilize FSSAT information as guide for future projects
- First responder site visits
- Conduct training on Emergency Notification System (VOLO)
- **Conduct more realistic Active Assailant training in the 2019-2020 school year
- Train and exercise Incident Management Team (IMT)
- Investigate increasing the number of school certified guidance counselors or alternatives
- Continue to work with local law enforcement partners on streamlining procedures for information sharing

Fiscal Impacts and Timelines

Most of the training costs related to our Threat Assessment Teams and Mental Health Awareness trainer training were supported by an existing grant with our local SEDNET. If funds from this grant are not available in the future, training costs will be built into the Mental Health Plan.

We have currently trained all school-based threat assessment teams, and by August 2019, we will have trained approximately 650, including school personnel and SROs. 14 sessions of Youth Mental Health Awareness will occur summer 2019. Stipends and instructor costs for these trainings are covered by our local SEDNET. In addition, we are using Mental Health Assistance Allocation funds to train at least 10 additional Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainers.

Our Student Services Department will be administering our Mental Health Plans and Mental Health Assistance Allocations, which includes Mental Health Awareness training. During the 2019-20 school year, we will provide multiple training opportunities monthly, as we target the 2500 instructional and non-instructional employees not yet trained.

The state has allocated additional sums to assist in the mental health evaluations and community-based behavioral health and support services for at-risk students. Our district uses Mental Health funds to contract with CDAC Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. to provide mental health supports for students in school. In addition, we collaborate and refer students to community-based services with Baptist Health Care. Baptist Health Care provides support for students through varying avenues. Two of these are the Community Action Team and Mobile Response Team.

Run, Hide, Fight training has been procured for free through a Department of Homeland Security Consortium University. We are offering 6 sessions and training almost 250 staff and faculty.

Notification app is an annual cost that has not been incurred before.

Mobile reporting apps are available at no cost to the District.

The school sign in/reunification software is a recurring cost that has been consolidated under one vendor and had an annual cost in previous years.

Any physical security initiatives identified in the FSSAT are grant funded.

Active shooter and medical training costs are negligible.

** - indicates topic is not subject to Sunshine Laws as per FSS119.071(3)