Evolving

- Newtown rocked us to our core. How do we defend our children from such evil?

- What are our limitations?

- How do we address? We have added 7 professional security and another SRO. We have reviewed all protocols with staff
Safety vs Security

- Schools are very good with safety. No fire deaths in over 25 years. Focus on natural disasters in recent years (backpacks). AED’s in buildings and more medically trained staff than ever.

- Security varies to large degrees from district to district. Who is truly prepared to stop an organized, resourced and determined school shooter?
Security

- We must remember facts while dealing with unthinkable horror.

- CDC stats: 17 homicides of school-age youth ages 5-18 years occurred at school in 2009-10

- CDC stats: 1 homicide or suicide of school-age youth at school per 2.7 million enrolled students in 2009-10
Community Discussion

- Our community needs to discuss what we want our schools to look like, what we want our schools to feel like and what we are willing to sacrifice to make these wants happen.

- We need to move past the emotion and look at facts, stats and options. No matter your personal belief, we need to do what is best for kids as defined by our community.
Strengths in our Schools

PREVENTION:

- School Resource Officers (SRO) at all 4 of our comprehensive high schools. They respond to all schools. The SRO Program creates a sense of safety for students, parents and staff. It also provides a conduit for information that keeps school personnel aware of community issues that directly impact the school climate. Consequences for criminal behavior by our students are dealt with immediately to prevent retaliatory issues and a high thresh-hold for expectations.
More Strengths

PREVENTION CONTINUED:

- District Resource Officers (DRO) are stationed at all of our secondary campuses. There are also 4 Roving DRO’s that cover our elementary campuses. Our DRO’s are expected to build relationships with our students and staff. This allows them to become confidants and receive information from students that prevents violent and/or criminal activity. Security also is responsible for keeping unwanted visitors off campuses. The training our officers receive includes: de-escalation, defensive tactics, hand-cuffing, Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray), and taser.
More Strengths

PREVENTION CONTINUED:

- **Speakers:** Schools have utilized Rachel’s Challenge and other anti-bullying programs to share information and prevention options with students across the district.
- **Student advocates:** are located in our middle and high schools to provide structure and an adult mentor for students most in-need.
- **Gear-up** is addressing the needs of secondary schools students that may need support to reach their dreams of a post-high school education.
- **We engage middle schools students with no-cut athletics and provide unlimited clubs at the secondary level.**
More Strengths

PREVENTION CONTINUED:

- **Parent Outreach:** District personnel actively attend community forums to understand various segments of our population’s perceptions and needs. We also have multitudes of ways parents can contact school and District personnel such as e-mail, websites, phone and in person.

- **Physical Safety:** We only allow access to buildings via the front door that is continually monitored by staff and all visitors must check-in. Staff may enter specified doors via card readers and their identification cards. Newer buildings have emergency lock-down buttons in the office area that can lock all doors immediately. Our 437 cameras also deter negative activity during and after school hours. We also utilize our own security for our physical structures after school hours 24/7, 365 days a year.
More Strengths

PREVENTION CONTINUED:

- Vancouver Public Schools is an active member of the Clark County Safe Schools Task Force. This group actively pursues best practices regarding all aspects of safety and includes all public school districts, law enforcement, fire, Juvenile Court, Red Cross, County Health and numerous outreach organizations.

- Regular Planning. Each building has two emergency drills each month. One must be fire/evacuation and the other can be lock-down, intruder alert, tornado, earthquake, etc. Each building also has a monthly safety meeting to address concerns as does the District as a whole.
More Strengths

INTERVENTIONS PROGRAMS:

- Threat Assessment: Clark County schools collaborated to create a threat assessment program in 2008. The program partners schools with law enforcement, mental health providers, and Department of Social and Health Service. The goal of the program beyond keeping the schools safe is to identify factors impeding a student’s education and connect the family to services.

- SMART Team. This is a county-wide program that consists of counselors and mental health staff that respond to tragic situations. Any school in the county can request this group’s assistance in an emergency situation.
More Strengths

INTERVENTION CONTINUED:

- Vancouver Public Schools co-sponsored the Safe Communities Task Force, SCTF, which focuses on reducing youth violence. This is achieved by providing training to parents, students and community members. The SCTF also helps network service providers with youth and families in need of services. Direct outreach is also being provided.

- SafeSchools: Schools are beginning to implement this program that gives several anonymous ways to report suspected bullying, weapons, violent acts, general safety concerns, etc.
More Strengths

INTERVENTION CONTINUED:

- Relations with the media. Although this can be challenging at times, a partnership with the media allows us to get lots of information to our patrons very quickly.

- Emergency Messaging System. This program allows us to contact all key personnel simultaneously in a timely manner during the course of an emergency.

- Peer Mediation: Some of our elementary schools secondary schools have trained peer mediators. Whenever 2 or more students are engaged in an intrapersonal conflict, they can engage the Peer Mediator to help resolve the dispute.
More Strengths

INTERVENTION CONTINUED:

- Insight Class: Any students in violation of VSD’s drug, alcohol or tobacco policy have the option to reduce their suspension by taking part in the Insight Class. This class teaches them and their parents the negative physical and mental outcomes of usage on a teenage developing mind and body.

- Back on Track: Students expelled are able to stay connected to their education. Aggression Replacement Training is utilized in partnership with Clark County Juvenile Justice to help change behavior issues. Students are able to find hope in acquiring their education and are re-entered to the comprehensive system when ready.
Gaps:
Always working to identify and to close

- Mental Health treatment is an identified need
- Funding for SRO’s and school security
- Buildings were not designed to defend against armed intruders. Need funding for modifications both to structures and to add technology solutions such as panic button, active monitoring of cameras, controlled entries
- Lock-down procedures: Run, Hide, Fight
- Training time to teach our staffs procedures
- Mass notification systems
- Communication systems and tools internally and externally