School Safety Advisory Committee
April 4, 2013
ESD 112, Vancouver
MEETING NOTES
9:00 – 12:00

Present: Frank Hewins, Greg Williamson, Justice Bobbe Bridge, Peggy Sandberg, Randy Town, Bruce Kuennen, Scott LeBar, Keith Merritt, Sharon Irwin, Bob McMullen, Mick Hoffman, Jim Grenfeld, Mike Donlin.
K20: Nancy Bernard.

Frank Hewins, Chair of the Committee, opened the meeting at 9:00. After welcoming our guest presenters, and introductions, Frank asked for as motion to accept notes from the March meeting in Yakima. Bruce noted that he had been in attendance, although the notes did not reflect that. With that correction noted, it was moved, and seconded that the meeting notes be accepted. The vote was unanimous to do so.

As a follow up to our previous meetings, these bills, related to the work of School Safety Center or the Safety Advisory Committee, are still listed under the ‘bills on the move’:
- SHB 1283 – Comp. school attendance
- ESHB 1336 – Troubled youth in schools
- SHB 1376 – Suicide assess, training
- ESB 5620 – safety drills
- ESSB 5735 – sex / kidnapping offenders
- SHB 1397 – Sexual health ed.
- SSB 5308 – CSEC committee
- 2SSB 5197 – Safe school bldgs.
- SB 5618 – warrantless searches
- E2SSB 5244 – Suspensions
- SJM 8006 – Eddie the Eagle program
- ESB 5104 – Epi pens
- ESHB 1668 – Student restraints
- ESSB 5563 – CSEC ed.

There was conversation around the pros, cons and implications of several of these bills. Greg spoke about the potential for “Safety Corps” funding. He noted that it is still “in limbo”, but that there has been positive response to the concept, and that is it is still being discussed with various legislators and the governor’s office. When asked whether it looked like the session would end on time, the general opinion seemed to be that it would not. In the end, however, it does appear that there will be legislation which has a direct impact on the work of the Advisory Committee.

The focus topic for today’s meeting was the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). As noted above, there are bills before the legislature which address this very important issue. Justice Bobbe Bridge addressed the Committee about the work of the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ). With funding from a Federal grant, the CCYJ has developed a State Model protocol for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children. She discussed the extensive process by which the protocol had been developed. She also provided information around CSEC data – and the lack of good, reliable data. Throughout the presentation, Justice Bridge underscored that fact that youth involved in prostitution should be seen and described as victims of sexual abuse rather than as criminals. Although any young person might be victimized, those most at risk of victimization tended to be young, poor, girls of color. In addition, additional risk factors include runaway, homeless, foster, truant status and those subject to abuse and/or neglect. Schools are a critical part of the early identification of current or potential victims. There is a need for collaboration across agencies, for reliable data and for victim advocacy. Justice Bridge also noted YouthCare and the national Safe Place project for youth in need of help in breaking away from abusers.
Following Justice Bridge, Jim Grenfeld discussed the **Aware Program**: AWARE, Inc. is a non-profit youth program serving Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania, Yakima, Benton and Kittitas Counties. AWARE offers the **Deceptions** and **Illusions** prevention programs and presentations which are appropriate for a wide range of ages and groups, including public schools, private schools and any youth serving organization.

Mick Hoffman then presented on the safety and **security efforts of Vancouver Public Schools**. He spoke of school safety as a community process rather than just a school or building process. Mick noted that the district had allocated over $1M for school security. He then explained several of the safety and security measures and programs which were being implemented across the Vancouver school district.

Following a few brief announcements, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

**Next Meeting: May 2, 2013; ESD 101, Spokane**