School Safety Center Advisory Committee (SSCAC) Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2001

WASA Conference Room

Members in Attendance:
Senator J. Zarelli
Jerry Painter – WEA
Dan Steele – WSSDA
Doug Nelson – PSEA
Carol Taylor-Cann – PTA
Denise Fitch – OSPI
Joe Pope, co-chair – AWSP
Barbara Mertens, co-chair – WASA

Members not in Attendance:
Dave Horn – AGO
Barbara Thurman – EMD
Tom Mc Bride – WAPA
Bob Posey – CJTC
Pam Kesselburg – CJTC
John Didion – Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
Ahndrea Blue – Governor’s Office
WSP/State Fire Marshall’s Office

Others in Attendance:
Kathleen Lawrence – Wash. State Senate
Dusty Pierpoint – Lacey Police Department (Attending for John Didion)

Welcome and Introductions – Barbara

Minutes to be taken – Denise

Advisory Committee Structure and Processes

- Membership – SSCAC members specified in the budget language were identified. Adding other appropriate members to the advisory was discussed.
- Topics included – Creating a group that is too large to effectively conduct business while at the same time needing to include members whose participation, background and expertise will enhance the work of the advisory.
- It was decided that the core group specified in the budget language (WEA, PSE, AWSP, WASA, ASIS and ASPC) and the following groups: WSPTA, WSSDA, Office of the Governor, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Attorney General’s Office, the Criminal Justice Training Commission, the
Washington State Fire Marshall and the Washington State Military Department/Emergency Management System, would constitute the voting membership. There are 16 voting members.

- Practicing teachers/principals and others that are already represented on the advisory may be invited to attend on an as-needed basis.
- Operating Principles – Barbara walked us through a draft of operating principles. Several changes/additions were made. The revised operating procedures were approved and are attached to these minutes.
- Meeting Dates: It was decided that the meetings would occur on the second Thursday of each month.
- The group decided that substitutes can be sent, but may not vote. This provision has been incorporated into the operating procedures.

School Safety Center

- Denise provided an update on the safety center website. She described how the website works and the website information available to students, staff, parents and others that has been provided in response to the terrorist attacks on September 11.
- Sen. Zarelli stated that he felt the advisory should approve a comprehensive action plan for the center, including what information is made available on the website. He recommended that the advisory appoint a subcommittee to oversee the website’s content, design and priorities for implementation.
- It was recommended that the safety center website be hot-linked to the web sites of the various education associations.

Bullying and Harassment Workgroup Report

- Denise provided an update on the development of the bullying and harassment policy. The group met on October 21 to develop a model policy and procedures. The draft has been distributed to various organizations and interested parties for review and comment. The next meeting, on November 19, will incorporate comments and recommendations from the field into the model policy and procedures.

Criminal Justice Training Commission

- The training of School Resource Officers, school safety personnel and references to “all” school administrators were discussed including the different training needed for each of the various groups and the feasibility of licensing school security/SRO’s prior to their being assigned to work in schools.
- Requiring attendance of school administrators at the training who have security personnel in their buildings/districts and setting minimum standards for information/skills was brought up.
- Barbara Mertens, Joe Pope and Jerry Painter offered to work with the CJTC to give input on appropriate training for each of their constituent groups.
WASA Survey

- Barbara shared the results of WASA’s fall survey that included a question on school comprehensive safety plans. Eighty-two percent (243) of the school districts responded. According to the survey results over 73% of the districts are making progress on their plans, an additional 12% have comprehensive plans in place.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting Items

- Denise will bring the OSPI comprehensive safe schools planning template and a draft plan for the Center to the next meeting.
- A website subcommittee will be appointed to:
  - Recommend priorities;
  - Develop an action plan around the priorities; and
  - Report back to the advisory at the January or February meeting.
- CJTC will present recommendations for training components and possible training dates for administrators and school safety personnel

Next meeting: December 13, 2001, 9-12p.m. at WASA

Note: If committee members who were not able to attend would like the materials from the November 1 meeting, please call Candace Antene at WASA (360-943-5717) and ask to have them mailed to you.