**School Safety Advisory Committee Meeting**

**NOTES**

**June 7, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Brian Smith, Chair;Barbara Thurman; Cheryl Collins; Dave Corr; Emily Cimber; Gerald Martens; Janiece Mondale; Kaaren Heikes; Karen Davy; Karen DeWitt; Katie Gilkespie; Kristin Dixon; Maddy Thompson; Mark Ketter; Melanie Stambaugh; Mona Johnson; Mike Donlin; Tim Garchow.

**Leg.** **Staff**: Ailey Kato; Ethan Morio; Megan Wargacki.

**Zoom**: Jill Patnode; Mike Dingle; Nancy Chamberlain; Rich McBride; Robin McKenzie; Sean Spellecy.

SSAC Chair Brian Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00. There were introductions around the room and on Zoom. The group reviewed the meeting agenda.

Mike noted that this was the last regularly scheduled SSAC meeting for this current school year. To say that it has been a turbulent year would be an understatement. It was a year of terrible school tragedies and of a busy legislative session.

Within the context of looking back and beginning to plan ahead, the committee members began to discuss school shootings, and the best advice around “Run! Hide! Fight!” Run-hide-fight, as a general response, has different names and variations. Although run-hide-fight was not developed with school children in mind, it is widely noted in the media that many schools – both in WA and across the country – are drilling on some form of response or other. The impact of a full-scale exercise on children across the age spectrum, and even on staff, has been noted, as well. “Experts” are marketing their expertise. In the meantime, schools already have lockdown and evacuation responses which they regularly drill and practice. The committee discussed all of this with a look toward developing some standard guidance for schools in WA. The initial thoughts include: keep it simple, plan ahead and train staff. This is an area in which the SSAC will continue to work as we move into the 2018-19 school year.

Also within this context, there was conversation around fire alarms. In both of the recent mass shooting tragedies, fire alarms apparently sounded for one reason or another. As a result, there has been discussion in some schools here and around the country that there is a need for more detailed, more refined protocols around alarm systems:

* What constitutes the need for an alarm?
* Who has the authority to sound an alarm?
* Is there/should there be a wait time before a response?
* What about multiple alarms for various events?
* And ultimately: what are we teaching students about alarms/alarm sounds, in general?

This is another area in which the SSAC will continue to work as we move into the 2018-19 school year.

Through the conversations, the need for clear and consistent vocabulary was noted. Different groups often use the same words to mean similar but different things. This is also true in the use of acronyms. We need to both expand and clarify the terminology around school safety as it us used within schools, and across geographical, jurisdictional and collaborative partner groups.

For starters, we have the SSAC definition of School Safety:

As defined by the School Safety Advisory Committee, the term “school safety” refers to and includes the critical and necessary environment in which effective teaching and learning can take place.

**School safety** supports student learning by creating and promoting a physically, emotionally, socially, and academically secure climate for students, staff, and visitors.

A focus on **school safety** helps create a learning environment which has a positive impact on behavior, attendance/drop-out rates, and ultimately, academic achievement. It involves planning for the prevention, and mitigation of, protection from, response to, and recovery from the variety natural, physical, social, biological, and technological threats to the school and the entire school community.

As the committee looked at the issues above with an eye to both the Safety Summit and next year’s SSAC work agenda, there was discussion around the work done on the costs of school safety. Sean Spellecy was able to resend the summary documentation around his cost study efforts. There was also the recognition that there is still work to be done here. Originally begun within the SSAC, itself, to determine the cost of mandated safety activities, the committee realized that it was much bigger in scope than initially thought. Factors playing into that larger scope included:

* Identifying all of the existing safety mandates – from signage on doors and windows to staff trainings, retrofits, chemical clean-outs, planning time, and many, many more;
* Recognizing changes in requirements and mandates as a result of newer legislation;
* Categorizing safety efforts into mandates, best practices, emerging practices, and “expected” practices.
* The question also arose as to what constituted a “safe” school environment. Does meeting bare minimums constitute “safe”? And where do liability questions come into play?

Sean Spellecy’s work constitutes an excellent beginning; however more needs to be done. This is yet another area in which the SSAC will continue to work as we move into the 2018-19 school year. And which plays into the Safety Summit long-term agenda.

With respect to initial Summit recommendations, and building from several other pieces of legislation which did not pass during the recent session, the committee was updated on the [**ESSB 6032 – Operating Budget**](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/6032-S.SL.pdf) Regional School Safety Programs. ESSB 6032 allocates $722K for this effort. OSPI has been working with AESD and all 9 ESDs to establish the foundation of regional safety programs. Through the iGrants process, the dollars will be allocated to 2 “Lead” ESDs (105 and 114), and 7 “regional Safety Programs” to address the specific mandates of the bill: threat assessment, emergency notification systems/processes – ***to include private schools***, and looking at potential safety technologies. This one-year allocation will be available July 2, 2018 through June 30, 2019. It is hoped that the success of this initial funding will form the basis for both increased and ongoing funding for ESD-based regional safety centers.

The notion of ‘branding’ and marketing school safety was also discussed. Several school safety-related groups and activities arose after this spring’s school tragedies. Mike noted that there have been a greater-then-usual number of calls and letters around school safety coming into OSPI. Two underlying themes have been:

* What are the state and WA schools doing around school safety?
* We need a group to work on school safety.

Maddy Thompson reported on the findings of a series of WEA listening session held recently across the state. She noted that there is a lot of anxiety among teachers, many not knowing of many of the safety efforts taking place.

WA is, in fact, doing a lot – with very little. Members of this committee know that. In fact, the SSAC is that group working regularly on school safety issues. Over time, the legislature has been aware of and has tasked the SSAC with many things to do. The “however” comes after events like the recent shooting tragedies. The tragedies make media headlines, and there are calls for more to be done. However, the facts that schools are doing a lot and that data shows that they are, in fact, safer than ever get lost. It will fall to us, the SSAC, to market the good work that is being done, and the studies on the state of school safety. More work for our future agendas.

Along with this was the reminder that we want to avoid reactionary responses to safety issues, but rather to look for thoughtful, sustainable measures to make schools as safe as possible.

There was a brief conversation around the [WASPC Mass Shooting Work Group](https://www.heraldnet.com/news/each-day-school-leaders-gauge-students-for-potential-threats/) . The next Work Group session will be held in July in Vancouver. A focus of that meeting is expected to be on the roles and functions of school leadership, especially as it impacts safety issues.

The committee began preliminary conversations around the upcoming Safety Summit #3.This will be held on August 6 at PSESD in Renton. In preparation, everyone is encouraged to reread:

* + 1. [White Paper Recommendations](http://www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/pubdocs/2017MarchAdvMtng/WHITE-PAPER.pdf) from the 1st annual Summit
    2. [Meeting Notes](http://www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/pubdocs/2017OctAdvMtng/SUMMIT2-NOTES.docx) from the 2nd Summit
    3. [**WSIPP Study**](file:///C:\Users\mike.donlin\Desktop\SAFETY%20ADVISORY%20Committee\6620%20Safety%20Summits\WSIPP%20Study%202017.pdf) **-**

This will help set the stage for the 3rd Summit. Of particular importance is the WSIPP study. Although very thorough and accurate, a cursory reading may give the impression that school safety in WA is well funded.

Emily Cimber gave the group an update on the SAO safety audit. The SAO is gathering a lot of good information which will be further data to inform the work of the Summits. The final SAO Audit findings are expected later this calendar year.

It is important to note, again, that these Safety Summits focus on a plan to fund school safety. Frank Hewins pointed out, as has been pointed out in the past, that ***one of the most critical school safety cost impacts is planning and training time***: dedicated time for districts and schools to develop comprehensive safety plans and to train staff on their roles in various safety efforts.

Several documents were noted throughout this meeting. Sean Spellecy’s document and a draft document from the National School Safety Association will be attached separately. Links to the other safety-related documents are here: (Alphabetical order)

* [Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2016 and 2017](https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-us-2016-2017.pdf/view) - DOJ-FBI (PDF)
* [Education Week Research Center: School Policing Survey](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiHgp2N-b_bAhUwITQIHdBmCL8QFgguMAE&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edweek.org%2Fmedia%2Fschool-resource-officer-survey-copyright-education-week.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2qcjbRWKCfnkrmVfjXKwtR) - Ed. Week Research Center (PDF)
* [IBPA Bullying Prevention Conference Flier](file:///C:\Users\mike.donlin\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\ZP7HX9EY\IBPA%20San%20Diego%202018%20flyer.pdf) – November 5-7, San Diego ***FLIER TO SHARE***
* [Juvenile Court Statistics 2015](http://www.ncjj.org/pdf/jcsreports/jcs2015report.pdf) – NCJJ-OJJDP (PDF)
* [Multi-Agency Reunification Services Plan Template](http://www.nationalmasscarestrategy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Multi-Agency_Reunification_Services_Plan_Template_508_final_v1.pdf)  (National Mass Care Strategy) (PDF)
* [Pretesting a Human Trafficking Screening Tool in the Child Welfare and Runaway and Homeless Youth Systems](https://www.urban.org/research/publication/pretesting-human-trafficking-screening-tool-child-welfare-and-runaway-and-homeless-youth-systems) – Urban Inst. (PDF)
* [Role of Technology in Improving K-12 School Safety](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1488.html) – Rand Corp. (PDF)
* [Safer Internet Day - USA](https://saferinternetday.us/) – February 5, 2019, Seattle, WA
* [Teen Dating Abuse: 2018 Resource Guide](https://www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/resources/teen-dating-abuse-2018-resource-guide) - CSN (PDF)
* [Texas: School and Firearm Safety Action Plan](https://gov.texas.gov/uploads/files/press/School_Safety_Action_Plan_05302018.pdf) – Gov. Abbott (PDF)

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

**6620 Safety Summit #3 – Monday, August 6, 2018, PSESD**

**SSAC Retreat/Planning Ahead: Tuesday, August 7, 2018 PSESD**

****