

SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS
5/15/2023
SHS Auditorium

Special BOE Meeting
School Safety Presentation
6:00 p.m.

Members present: Alster, Eluskie, Jensen, VanStrien, Bormes, Bremmer, Driscoll

Members absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 by Jensen

II. School Safety Forum

1. Overview of District Safety Measures
2. Jason Russell – Secure Education Consultants

III. Communications

IV. Audience Comments / Public Participation

1. Jamie – Carry backpacks? Search packs with suspicion? Cameras? Perimeter checks? Why was trespasser able to enter?
2. Rachel – daughter was in lunchroom during the incident. Have door mechanical issues been resolved? Timing between doors. Double incident at middle school with intentional/accidental lockdowns. Will the student be punished? Why wasn't the school forthright with the information?
3. Shay – Can you expand on the rumors which circulated after first intentional lockdown. How does the lockdown work? Where can the kids hide? Glass concerns.
 - a. Jason – options-based approach – Run hide or fight?
4. Dave – security doors left open. Can community volunteers be used to ensure doors are secure. Watchdogs Parents? Online calendar for volunteer opportunities?
5. Brook Carter – What are kids told to do, situational. Teachers are telling kids can't leave, just stay put. Kids are being told to freeze, hide, run. What happens when kids aren't in a classroom, can they be locked in a stairwell? How is emergency location communicated? Do kids grab things to throw during a lockdown? The threat is always present. How do we help kids understand the difference between rumor and dangerous plans?
 - a. Andy – community mental health, people don't wake up and suddenly decide to do bad deeds. These are always premeditated. Community must say something.
6. Jamie – Again. Community must also work to keep our kids safe. Lock guns down. Call your reps and get action from your legislators, regarding gun safety. Community must trust that the school is doing everything possible to investigate and properly secure against threats.
7. Jen Larson - How many times are kids given chances? Red flags everywhere, aggressive behavior. Prevent the issue before it escalates. We are trying to help kids until it becomes a major issue. Glass concerns in schools. Are trespassers stopped immediately, or allowed to proceed into the school? Flood of kids leaving the school, allows others to enter. Alarms on open doors?

- a. Andy – stiffer laws against kids who threaten our schools.
 - b. Jason – only one incident of shooting behind locked classroom door.
- 8. Molly shin – what happens to kids who are in trauma, after any based school event?
Kids are listening, have conversation with them.
 - a. Joel we can do better in this area.
- 9. Connie – doors open when needing to have door open, what kind of training can we have.
 - a. Jason – monitor the doors when bringing in equipment.
 - b. Joel – doors can be shut off so equipment can be moved in, but someone needs to supervise open doors.
- 10. Andy – board enforces and maximizes punitive measures as recommended by admin.
- 11. Hagen – mental health check – in. Big brother big sister programs? 2008 grad, bullied.
Be nice be kind programs.
 - a. Joel capture kids hearts. Cool to me nice activities.
- 12. Jacky – middle school parent. Moved from Muskegon. Thank you for everything the school is doing to keep kids safe. Kids concerned about the notes.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by supported by Bremmer supported by VanStrien to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Alster

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Board of Education Secretary