



Superintendent's Cougar News!

#prideinthebridge

May 2018

Community Safety Forum Update

A few months ago, during a BOE meeting, I introduced the District's and my philosophy for our school and our students. We are "*One Building, One District, One Community*" and must work together for our students' future. As part of that philosophy, the district is committed to increasing communication. I am setting a goal for myself to write a Superintendent's Cougar News edition each month that we do not publish a District Newsletter.

On May 3, we had our first community forum, focused on building safety. It is my hope to host more forums like this, on different topics, where the community can voice their thoughts and inform district decisions.

I would like to use this first edition of Superintendent's Cougar News to share the results of the Safety Forum.

The first discussion was about the District's Emergency Response Plan. The **SHELL emergency response system** was developed by law enforcement and adopted by schools and businesses across the state. Schools, businesses, and municipalities throughout New York State use the SHELL system in order to provide administrators, teachers, students, parents, law enforcement officials and community residents with common language to describe the type of situation and then know how to respond. The District has been letting parents know when we are in a Hold in Place or Shelter in Place with the intent to keep you informed. We learned at the forum that parents would like a more detailed description of the SHELL system. You can find this at the end of this newsletter and on our District website's new School Safety Information page.

We further discussed security measures that the District currently has in place.

- Doors remain locked during the day.
- The District has key fobs and key cards for staff and faculty to enter the building.
- The District maintains and monitors access to the building for each employee
- All staff and faculty have room keys and there is an upgraded entry system that allows district staff to speak to and see the visitor.

Additionally, participants of the forum discussed recommendations from law enforcement and staff for increased building security. Participants worked in small teams to prioritize the recommendations. The three teams had different first, second and third priorities, so the first several items are not numbered based on that outcome. The results are to the right.

A special thanks to Rocco Pizzuto, a 6th grade student who attended the forum, for sharing a safety practice that will help us move quickly into lockdown! We plan to discuss this with the teachers at the next faculty meeting. Other participants shared great ideas as well that we will discuss internally.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR FACILITIES CHANGES

- Shatterproof and mirrored film on all windows by all entrances.
 - Cameras on all outside doors.
 - Change locks in entire school if keys are in the community.
 - Issue keys for substitutes.
 - Shrink the size of the window in each classroom door.
 - Hire a School Resource/Safety Officer (SRO).
1. Provide employees with identification cards on lanyards.
 2. Monitor key card access and provide staff with building access at specific times for different groups of people.

The community did not want to pursue:

1. Steel bars (panes) on windows by the doors in the main parking lot with solid steel entry doors.
2. Solid steel entrance doors with no windows at all entrances to the building
3. Kick bars on classroom

District Action after the Forum

The District met to discuss upgrading our camera system. During that meeting, we asked the engineer to add cameras so that all of the outside doors have camera coverage.

The District is scheduling a meeting with Armoured One, a security company in Syracuse, to discuss shatterproof and mirrored film on entrance windows. We will also discuss a solution for the classroom windows that will meet fire codes and ideas that will enable teachers to lock the doors safely and quickly.

Internally, the district is purchasing more room keys and implementing procedures for substitute keys, staff ID cards, keys for law enforcement, changing outside locks of the building, and increased access control.

A School Resource Officer is also a big conversation. We were hopeful that legislators would add money to the budget for this purpose. This position was not included in the budget, so we are considering our options at this time.

Visitor Entry Procedures

The following procedures are being put in place for all visitors to our school:

- The Elementary Tunnel will be our primary point of entry. When you arrive at school, come into the Business Office and sign in. Staff will notify the person you are there to see and they will come to greet you.
- Only parents who have been called by the nurse to pick up a sick child will gain access to the building through the lower parking lot doors. If you come to the lower parking lot, you will be asked whom you are there to meet with and that person will greet you and bring you up to the Business Office to get a visitor badge before you can pick up your child.
- There will be a temporary sign-in table by the auditorium when there are events during the school day.

I want to thank all those who attended the Safety Forum. I feel it was a success and I gained needed information from the community. We certainly want SVCS to be as safe as possible. Thank you for your patience, cooperation, and flexibility as we implement these new procedures and physical changes in our school. Please don't hesitate to share any questions, comments or concerns you have.

Sincerely,
Cindy Stocker

S – Shelter in Place: *No imminent concern.* Typically used during severe weather, especially wind. Students and staff are required to remain indoors because it is safer inside the building or a room than outside.

H – Hold in Place: *No imminent concern.* Movement of students and staff is temporarily limited during an internal incident, such as a medical emergency or a maintenance issue, to keep them away from the affected area.

E – Evacuation: Students and staff are required to leave the building because it is safer outside than inside, such as during a fire.

L – Lockout: The school building is secured due to an imminent concern outside the school building, such as a wild animal in the school vicinity. Often times, the District is notified by Law Enforcement to initiate Lock Out Procedures. During a lockout, inside the school is the safest place for students and staff and *no one will be permitted to enter the building until this designation is lifted.* Parents and community members should not to come to school or wait outdoors at school for their own safety. Regular indoor activities may continue, but outdoor activities will not occur. Communication updates will be made as the situation allows.

L – Lockdown: *Most serious status, imminent danger.* Students and staff take cover, remain silent and out of view. This occurs when an incident poses an immediate threat of violence in or around the school. School personnel will alert law enforcement but will likely not be able to issue any other communication to the community until the threat has passed in order to maintain everyone's safety.