

# Community Advisory Council

CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Community Advisory Council Meeting May 17, 2018

The Community Advisory Council met on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education offices in Westminster.

### School Security

Duane Williams, Supervisor of School Security and Emergency Management, reported that the Security Advisory Council has been discussing ways to better network with parents and students. One idea they have been considering is hosting regional meetings on school security at high schools and inviting the feeder schools and having Mr. Williams and the Sheriff present.

Mr. Williams explained that the role of the Security Advisory Council is to give the school system guidance and direction and to approve or disapprove policy and procedures for recommendation to the Board of Education. The committee contains a cross section of parents, staff, law enforcement, and community members. Some of the members also serve on the Community Advisory Council. If you are interested in serving on the Security Advisory Council, please let Carey Gaddis know.

Mr. Williams reported that there seems to be a lack of trust between parents and the school system when it comes to security and the safety of students. After a few days of lockdowns like we have had this spring, parents go into a panic mode and may assume the school system doesn't know what it is doing. A lot of training goes on and the school system is using best practices. However, we are not publicizing all of the training and functional exercises that are taking place throughout the school system. According to Mr. Williams, staff and security are taking school security more seriously than ever before. Schools are still one of the safest places to be. If you see inconsistencies, please let your administrator or Mr. Williams know.

Mr. Williams talked about the four core actions we follow. (See attached sheet). It was suggested that a bit more detail be given to parents when a message is sent out. For example, if a school is in a lockdown or lockout, explain what that means.

Discussion took place regarding the following items:

- Using the Community Advisory Council as a sounding board for ideas and sharing information from the Security Advisory Council

### Meeting Dates 2017-2018

Monday, October 9, 2017 • Monday, November 6, 2017\* • Monday, December 4, 2017 (tentative)  
Tuesday, January 9, 2018 • Tuesday, March 20, 2018 • Thursday, May 17, 2018

All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Board offices in Westminster unless otherwise noted.

\*Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

- Including the four core actions sheet in the Informational Calendar and the Student Handbook
- Explaining to parents at Back to School Nights what drills will be taking place during the school year and what takes place during a drill. This will enable parents to talk to their students after a drill.
- The number of drills held in a school per year is dictated by law, Mr. Williams, and the Security Advisory Council. Schools are required to set their own schedules for drills.
- The school system does not let parents know in advance when drills will be held. Mr. Williams said he is adamantly opposed to this because he doesn't want to notify people that 500 students may be evacuating a school at one time.
- Concern was expressed about no field trips to Baltimore, yet proms in Baltimore are allowed. Mr. Williams explained that there is security at the proms and they are not being held in areas where there is high crime.
- Discussion regarding what we can and cannot release during an emergency. Mr. Williams explained that when we are keeping the information we are releasing brief, it is for the safety of all, including the police and the investigators. In addition, there are times when we are asked not to communicate. If parents have a concern about information, please do not put it on Facebook. Call and ask the Community and Media Relations Office.
- It has been noted that substitute teachers do not receive the same training as teachers.

### **Recommendations**

**After discussion regarding school security, a motion was made by Jason Helton and seconded by Erin Sipes that the Community Advisory Council recommend to the Superintendent and the Board of Education that a presentation providing an overview of security issues and exercises be given to parents at all Back to School Nights. The presentations should be consistent from school to school and provide a consistent countywide message. The vote was unanimous. It was suggested that if this is approved, the Community Advisory Council should be utilized to provide feedback on the initiative.**

**Another recommendation for Mr. Williams was to consider putting information on the website that explains what parents should expect in an emergency. It should also include contact information for parents if there is a problem or if they have a concern about a safety issue.**

### **Updates**

Carey Gaddis reported the following:

- This is the last CAC meeting of the year. The schedule for next year has not been set yet.
- If you are going to continue as a CAC member for the next school year, please let Carey know. If you are not going to continue, please notify your principal that a replacement is needed. Carey will be sending a reminder out to all CAC members and all principals in a few weeks.
- Carey will be working with principals throughout the summer to make sure that we have a parent representative for each school. The Board of Education has discussed assigning more items to CAC. Therefore, it is important for every school to be represented.
- The Board of Education suggested using CAC members for feedback regarding the Bring Your Own Device Policy at the elementary level. Carey will be in touch as to the format that will be used for feedback.
- We will ask Mr. Williams to come back to our first meeting of the school year. We would also like to invite the new Superintendent. There is a possibility that the Sheriff and a few School Resource Officers may also be in attendance.

### **School Announcements and Updates**

Discussion took place regarding the decreased amount of down time students have in school and that there are inconsistencies from school to school. Some members expressed that because of this some communities are not feeling as included in the school. It was suggested that Steve Johnson be invited to the first meeting of the year to address this issue.

Discussion took place regarding the school board candidate forums that have taken place. Bob Lord encouraged members to tell parents to “pay attention and vote. It does make a difference.” Information about candidates can be found on the Community Media Center’s website and the Carroll Values Education website.

### **Schools Represented:**

Carrolltowne Elementary, East Middle, Hampstead Elementary, Linton Springs Elementary, Mechanicsville Elementary, Mt. Airy Elementary, Mt. Airy Middle, Oklahoma Road Middle, Runnymede Elementary, Sandymount Elementary, South Carroll High, Spring Garden Elementary, West Middle, Westminster High, William Winchester Elementary, Winfield Elementary, Winters Mill High School, CCSGA