

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: August 20, 2013
TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**
FROM: S. Dallas Dance, Superintendent
SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

ORIGINATOR: Michael Sines, Chief Operations Officer

RESOURCE

PERSON(S): Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director
April K. Lewis, Manager, School Safety
Alan Hill, Manager, Student Behavior
Patrick Hancock, Manager, Risk Management
Captain André K. Davis, Safe Schools Facilitator
Anissa Watkins, Safe Schools Assistant Facilitator
Richard Muth, Specialist, Emergency Management
Diane Richmond, Principal, Summit Park Elementary School
George Roberts, Principal, Perry Hall High School

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education receives an update on the Department of School Safety and Security team's activities preparing for the opening of the schools for 2013-2014. This overview will highlight the technology, facilities, human resources, and professional development that have been implemented to support the *Blueprint 2.0* second pillar of safety and security.

Attachment 1 – PowerPoint

Executive Summary of Board Report on School Safety and Security

The Department of School Safety and Security was created on October 10, 2012, consists of the Offices of School Safety, Security, Student Behavior, and Risk Management. For the first six months the department was staffed by an executive director. Currently the department is a fully staffed BCPS Team.

As the *Blueprint 2.0* states, “Every school and office will be safe and secure, promote individual well-being, and provide positive, respectful, and caring environments for teaching, learning, and working.” The BCPS Department of School Safety and Security team is working to achieve this goal. The team has set safety and security standards for technology, facilities, and human resources. Major initiatives that will be completed by the beginning of the year include camera systems in all elementary schools, electronic entry systems (buzzer systems) in all schools, and a visitor identification system in all schools.

The Office of School Safety has been and continues to work on building a positive school climate in each school/office. Starting with the Safe Schools Conference in June with a massive emphasis on bullying and continuing with the Safety Academies this summer, professional development has been key to starting and continuing the work to achieve positive school and office environments. Included in the Office of School Safety is the specialist for emergency management whose role focuses on all aspects of planning, training, and support of emergency situations. As part of the office, there is the Office of Safe Schools which is composed of the captain and sergeant assigned from the Baltimore County Police Department to the school system as part of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and serve as liaisons with the school system. All secondary, middle and high schools, now have at least one SRO assigned.

The security for school and office facilities is managed by the Department of Physical Facilities which provides second and third shift security for all BCPS schools, offices, and bus lots.

The Office of Student Behavior is composed of the five superintendent’s designees for student hearings. These designees work with school administrators on the supports and interventions that schools may implement to help students remain in their instructional programs. School administrators have been successful in working with students as evidenced by the current suspension rate of 5.3 while continuing to keep our schools safe. As a last resort, students may be assigned to alternative programs that may assist them in meeting their academic requirements and address behavioral issues. This office also handles student appeals and mitigations of disciplinary actions.

The Office of Risk Management was an existing office that has been moved into the department under the reorganization that took effect July 1, 2013. In addition to a variety of responsibilities, this office has been very busy working on a Hazard Communication Plan that did not previously exist and now is being rolled out to all schools and employees during the 2013-2014 school year. Additionally, this office is taking on the transition of the Workers’ Compensation program from the county to the school system.

Department of School Safety and Security

TEAM BCPS

Dale R. Rauenzahn, Executive Director
Patrick Hancock, Manager, Risk Management
April Lewis, Manager, School Safety
Alan Hill, Manager, Student Behavior
Richard Muth, Specialist, Emergency Management

Captain Andre Davis, Baltimore County Police
Sergeant Anissa Watkins, Baltimore County Police



Risk Management

TEAM BCPS

- Workers' Compensation
- Hazards Communication Plan
 - Training
 - Identification of all chemicals
 - Safety data sheets



School Safety

TEAM BCPS

- Creating a positive school climate
 - Bullying prevention, intervention, supports
 - Character education
 - Substance abuse prevention/intervention
 - Mental health supports



Police Partnership/SRO

- Tactical Assessments at 165 schools
- SROs at all high schools and now all middle schools
- Elementary schools – Keep-a-Check
- Active shooter drills – all SROs, precincts, and cadets



Student Behavior

- Five-year downward trend of suspension rate
- Change in mindset to alternative to suspension, intervention, and support
- Staff development – *Student Handbook* and Summer Safety Academy



Emergency Management

- School safety plans
- Drills/exercises
 - Scenario-based drills (quarterly)
 - Monitored and debriefed
- Training

Video



Reports from the Field

- Diane Richmond, Principal, Summit Park Elementary School
- George Roberts, Principal, Perry Hall High School



Summary

- Expert team
 - Technology standards
 - Human standards
 - Facilities standards
- School community involvement
 - New initiatives – cameras, Raptor, buzzers, swipe cards
 - Hear it, See it, Report it

