

# DRAFT

## SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

April 24, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.

CTC@HULL - ROOM D136

**PRESENT:** Hon. Brian Moran, Co-chair, Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Commonwealth of Virginia; Hon. Laura Fornash, Co-chair, Former Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia; Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, Chesterfield County School Board, Midlothian District; Dianne Smith, Chesterfield County School Board, Clover Hill District; Jim Holland, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, Dale District; Sen. Rosalyn Dance, 16th Senate District; Del. Roxann Robinson, 27th House District; Sheriff Karl Leonard, Chesterfield County Sheriff; Dr. James Lane, Superintendent, Chesterfield County Public Schools; Dr. Joe Casey, County Administrator, Chesterfield County; Col. Jeffrey Katz, Chief of Police, Chesterfield County; Chief Loy Senter, Chief, Chesterfield Fire & EMS; Debbie Burcham, Executive Director, Community Services Board; Kristin Tait, Assistant Principal, Swift Creek Elementary; Dr. John Murray, Principal, Matoaca High; Jennifer Deckert, Teacher, Harrowgate Elementary; Morgan Rhudy, Student, James River High; Robert Innes, Citizen, Bermuda District; Lisa Mansfield, Citizen, Bermuda District; Dr. John Deitrick, Citizen, Clover Hill District; Matthew Rock, Citizen, Clover Hill District; Hon. Henry Hudson, Citizen, Dale District; Mark Bowen, Citizen, Dale District; Stacey Haney, Citizen, Matoaca District; Pam Welch, Citizen, Matoaca District; Danielle Pierce, Citizen, Midlothian District; Michelle Warden, Citizen, Midlothian District.

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### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Mrs. Smith** began the meeting at 3:34 p.m. by welcoming everyone on behalf of the School Board. She stated that the Task Force was charged with evaluating protocol and outlined the critical areas of discussion. She mentioned that all Task Force meetings would be held in the Thomas Fulghum Center at CTC@Hull.

**Dr. Siddiqi** addressed the Task Force, stating that the goal was to create a plan by the end of the calendar year, which would allow for consideration during the next budget cycle. He recognized Sec. Moran and Former Sec. Fornash for their partnership and willingness to lead as co-chairs. He thanked everyone who applied, stating that the School Board was overwhelmed with applicants.

**Co-chair Moran** thanked Gov. Northam for allowing him to serve on the Task Force, stating that he was honored to serve with Former Sec. Fornash. He recognized the dedication of the citizens of Chesterfield County and then gave an overview of Working Groups #1 -- Partnership between Chesterfield Schools and Chesterfield Police -- and #2 -- School Safety.

The **Task Force Members** introduced themselves.

**Co-chair Fornash** stated that she was honored to be a part of the Task Force, especially as a product of Chesterfield County Public Schools (“CCPS”). She then gave an overview of Working Groups #3 -- Student Conduct and Student Discipline -- and #4 -- Student Support Services.

## II. SCHOOL SAFETY

**Donald Green**, Safety and Security Manager for Chesterfield County Public Schools, presented to the Task Force. Highlights included:

- A statistical overview of the history of mass violence attacks on schools.
- A look at the evolution of response protocols.
- A look at the safety personnel and procedures currently in place at CCPS.
- Next steps for the School Safety Working Group (Working Group #2).

In response to a question from **Co-chair Fornash** regarding the locations of school safety officers (“SSOs”), **Mr. Green** stated that they were placed in high schools. He clarified that school resource officers (“SROs”) were placed in both middle and high schools.

**Co-chair Moran** asked about current CCPS policies with regard to enforcing school discipline vs. law enforcement. **Mr. Green** responded that SROs enforced matters of the law, not school-related discipline. Discipline was left to school administration.

**Sen. Dance** asked Mr. Green to clarify the difference between “SRO” and “police officer,” to which **Mr. Green** responded that SROs were police officers, while SSOs were CCPS employees.

**Sen. Dance** asked if there was a difference in mindset between a police officer and an SRO. **Mr. Green** stated that SROs were police officers first and clarified that administrators had no say in arrests.

**Ms. Haney** asked if there had been any discussions with regard to hiring retired officers. **Mr. Green** responded that no school division in the state had hired armed retired officers for schools.

In response to a question from **Co-chair Moran** regarding what was needed to address safety concerns, **Mr. Green** stated that retro-fitting schools remained a priority.

In response to a question from **Mr. Holland** regarding trailer access, **Mr. Green** stated that mega-trailers were locked with codes and that staff was gradually adding this feature to trailers throughout the county.

**Mr. Holland** asked if the division had any data on weapons in schools, to which **Mr. Green** stated the need to defer to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Ms. Rhudy** asked what practices were in place to help minimize student concerns with regard to incidents. **Mr. Green** responded that the division focused on getting students help when needed, working with students on best response and safety measure practices, and offering preventive mental health services.

### **III. BREAK**

The Task Force took a brief break from 4:45-4:56 p.m.

### **IV. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

**Dr. Siddiqi** stated that the general process would be to have the working groups digging into the issues and then reporting back to the Task Force.

**Bryan Carr**, CCPS Counseling Coordinator, and **Hope Murphy**, CCPS Social Work Coordinator, presented to the Task Force. Highlights included:

- An overview of the objectives of, and scope of work performed by, Student Support Services.
- A look at the current landscape of student mental health needs.
- A look at the response workflow of CCPS staff.
- An overview of threat assessment data compiled from 2015-18.
- An outline of the Signs of Suicide (“SOS”) program, including a glimpse at program data.
- A list of mental health community partners.
- A list of goals for the future with regard to prevention, response, partnerships, and planning.

**John Erbach**, School Board Chair and Dale District Representative, addressed the Task Force, thanking them for their service. He stated that school safety was one of the most important

conversations happening in Chesterfield, and he emphasized that the Task Force's work would inform policy, budget, and other discussions for the foreseeable future.

## **V. NEXT STEPS**

**Co-chair Moran** discussed the importance of threat assessments and preventive safety measures. He stated that information from the meeting could be accessed on the CCPS website. He mentioned that the Task Force wanted to hear from the public and that they would schedule public comment opportunities in the future.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Co-chair Moran** announced that the next School Safety Task Force meeting would take place at 9 a.m. on May 23, 2018 in the Thomas Fulghum Center at CTC@Hull. He adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.