

DRAFT

SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

May 23, 2018 at 9 a.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; Christopher Winslow, Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, Clover Hill 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; William Davenport, Chesterfield Commonwealth's Attorney; 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; Pam Welch, Citizen, Matoaca District; Danielle Pierce, Citizen, Midlothian District.

I. WELCOME

Co-chair Moran started the meeting at 9:02 a.m. He mentioned the recent tragedy in Santa Fe, stating that it should serve as a reminder of the importance of the Task Force's work.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion of **Mr. Holland**, seconded by **Mr. Winslow**, the minutes from the April 24, 2018 Task Force meeting were unanimously approved.

III. OVERVIEW OF VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Wendell Roberts, Chesterfield County School Board Attorney, provided an overview of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, which included guidelines pertaining to records, meetings, and closed sessions.

IV. UPDATE ON GOVERNOR’S SCHOOL AND CAMPUS SAFETY TASK FORCE OF 2013

Charles Quagliato from the Virginia General Assembly’s Division of Legislative Services presented to the Task Force. He provided an overview of the 2013 Governor’s Task Force and discussed the group’s findings and recommendations, as well as the results of those recommendations.

Discussion centered around the ability to place armed, retired officers in schools, the implications of school design and related funding requirements as it related to school safety and security, and the need to perform an assessment related to the effectiveness of the 2013 Task Force’s recommendations and related funding.

The group also discussed state-level funding and grants, as well as the need to routinely revisit threat assessment protocols in order to most effectively allocate funding.

V. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK FOR WORKING GROUP #1 - PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHESTERFIELD SCHOOLS AND CHESTERFIELD POLICE

John Erbach, Chesterfield County School Board Chair and Dale District Representative, provided an overview of Working Group #1 and discussed the group’s first meeting.

Dr. John Gordon, Chesterfield County Public Schools’ Chief of Schools, presented to the Task Force. He provided an overview of the group’s scope of work, discussed the memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) currently in place between the school division and police force, and mentioned potential items to be included in a revised MOU. Dr. Gordon also discussed the role of School Resource Officers (“SROs”), providing historical context, an overview of their training, and the benefits they provided to students and staff. He also shared communication and arrest protocols, as well as a list of next steps for the working group.

Discussion centered around possible new best practices with regard to traffic monitoring, the need for diversity training for all stakeholders, and incident response protocol.

Col. Don Hall addressed the Task Force, stating the importance of maintaining authority in schools. He asked about the protocol regarding student arrests, to which **Col. Katz** responded that it was a law enforcement issue and that the school's SRO would remain on campus rather than assist in transporting the arrestee. **Mr. Erbach** touted **Mr. Bowen** as an example of how best to build relationships with students while maintaining authority.

Further **discussion** addressed recommendations for SROs regarding trauma response.

Ms. Rhudy expressed her belief that K-9 sweeps targeted certain students at her school -- specifically, ESL students. **Mr. Bowen** responded that the SROs did not choose which classrooms or students were searched and that checks were randomly assigned.

Sen. Dance applauded Ms. Rhudy for her willingness to speak, stating the importance of hearing about current issues in order for the Task Force's work to be most impactful.

The Task Force then **discussed** the possibility of bringing SROs into elementary schools, as well as the need for schools to have a better understanding of police response procedures in order to better create their own response protocols.

Mr. Winslow mentioned the new police athletic league, expressing his belief that it would build positive relationships between kids, the community, and the police.

Mr. Rock emphasized the importance of the relationships forged between students and their SROs, especially with regard to young men of color.

Mr. Terry asked if there was trauma response training in place for SROs. **Col. Katz** responded that he was unsure but that it was a good idea and would be taken under advisement.

Dr. Gordon announced that Working Group #1's next meeting would take place at 4 p.m. June 18 in the CCPS Central Office Board Room.

VI. BREAK

The Task Force took a brief break from 10:48 - 10:56 a.m.

VII. OVERVIEW OF OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK FOR WORKING GROUP #3 - STUDENT CONDUCT AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Dr. Chad Knowles, Coordinator - CCPS Department of Constituent Services and Student Leadership, presented to the Task Force. He discussed the Chesterfield Code of Student Conduct and the legal requirements for reporting to law enforcement. He also shared data regarding student disciplinary actions and discipline disparities. Dr. Knowles outlined alternative approaches to student discipline, and he discussed bullying prevention initiatives and next steps for the working group.

Discussion centered around reasons for the decrease in student arrest numbers; namely, that the school division maintained focus on building positive relationships. Further discussion pertained to the availability of alternative discipline approaches at all levels, with Dr. Knowles stating that alternative discipline was available at all grade levels.

Mr. Terry asked about the protocol for addressing community concerns regarding students who have been returned to the classroom after making threats. After asking if the question pertained to a specific student, **Dr. Lane** stated that individual student discipline could not be discussed during the meeting.

There was further **discussion**, which centered around the need for additional staff and professional development opportunities to support trauma-informed care. Other topics included discipline reporting protocols.

VIII. UPDATE ON WORKING GROUP #2 - SCHOOL SAFETY

Mrs. Smith introduced **Dr. Joe Tylus**, Executive Director - CCPS Department of Constituent Services and Student Leadership, who presented to the Task Force. He provided an overview of the group's first meeting, as well as their methodology and workflow. He also outlined the group's next steps.

IX. UPDATE ON WORKING GROUP #4 - STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Carrie Coyner, CCPS School Board Representative for the Bermuda District, and **Bryan Carr**, CCPS Counseling Coordinator, presented to the Task Force. They discussed the group's scope of work, its primary goal, and its workflow processes. They also provided an overview of community partnerships, programs, curriculum, and current staffing, as well as a list of next steps for the group.

Discussion centered around the need for data collection as a means for providing more targeted support to students, as well as the importance of addressing needs on a school-by-school basis as opposed to a more holistic, higher-level approach.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Co-chair Moran announced that the next School Safety Task Force meeting would take place at 9 a.m. on June 12, 2018 in the Thomas Fulghum Center at CTC@Hull. He adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.