

DRAFT

SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

June 12, 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; Donald R. Fairheart, Interim 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; Sonia Smith, President, Chesterfield Education Association; Kristin Tait, Assistant Principal, Swift Creek Elementary; 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; Hon. Henry Hudson, Citizen, Dale District; Mark Bowen, Citizen, Dale District; Stacey Haney, Citizen, Matoaca District; Pam Welch, Citizen, Matoaca District; Michele Warden, Citizen, Midlothian District.

I. WELCOME

Co-chair Moran started the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Dr. Siddiqi introduced Mr. Fairheart as the new Interim Superintendent.

II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion of **Mr. Holland**, seconded by **Co-chair Fornash**, the minutes from the May 23, 2018 Task Force meeting were unanimously approved.

III. UPDATE ON THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Kirk Cox, Speaker of the Va. House of Delegates and Chairman of the House Select Committee on School Safety, provided an overview of the Select Committee's work. He discussed the committee's philosophy, the bases for the committee's creation, and the committee's membership and organizational workflow. Speaker Cox also discussed the committee's areas of focus, the challenges it faced, and the committee's next steps.

Discussion centered around the need for the select committee to explore mental health supports for higher education students and staff, as well as the ways in which the Chesterfield Task Force could influence recommendations at the state level.

Speaker Cox mentioned that the select committee would hold a meeting at Meadowbrook High on July 11. There was discussion about a possible presentation from the CCPS Task Force at that meeting, and Speaker Cox confirmed that there would be a public comment period.

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

Carrie Coyner, Bermuda District School Board Representative, and **Dr. Lisa Micou**, CCPS Intervention and Training Specialist for Social Emotional Learning, presented to the Task Force. They shared the working group's revised goal, discussed the subgroup organization and individual areas of focus, and provided an overview of current programs and partnerships. They also provided a comparison of current programs and support vs. the programs and support expected from the implementation of the school division's new strategic plan.

Discussion centered around potential best practices regarding preventive measures, general feedback on work prioritization, and the school division's ability to follow up on mental health issues. Further discussion included support programs for homebound students.

V. UPDATE ON WORKING GROUP #2 - SCHOOL SAFETY

Dianne Smith, Clover Hill District School Board Representative, and **Donald Green**, CCPS Safety and Security Manager, presented to the Task Force. They provided an overview of the school division's implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 Governor's School Safety Task Force. They also discussed the results of the recent CCPS staff security climate survey.

Cpl. Bowen presented a proposal to add armed security mentors to elementary schools. He discussed his current role as a mentor at Bellwood Elementary, as well as the benefits seen by the Bellwood community. He shared some success stories and provided a breakdown of the estimated funding needs associated with expanding the program. He also discussed the next steps required for a successful trial and launch.

Discussion centered around the importance of elementary-age mentoring as a means of preparing students for middle and high school, thoughts on replicating the mentor program beyond Bellwood, and the role of police officers as facilitators and healers in schools. Task Force members also discussed the implications of arming the mentors; including, how it would affect the mentors' relationships with students, whether it would serve as a deterrent for potential threats, and how it would be perceived in different schools throughout the county. Further discussion topics included potential funding sources, current partnerships between the mentor program at Bellwood and the community, and opportunities for citizens to get involved.

VI. BREAK

The Task Force took a brief break from 10:57-11:10 a.m.

VII. A COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL SAFETY EFFORTS IN VIRGINIA

Donna P. Michaelis, Manager - Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety ("VCSCS"), presented to the Task Force. She provided an overview of the VCSCS's role throughout the Commonwealth, she shared trend data with regard to school safety incidents, and she discussed the timeline of legislative measures passed from 1999 through the present. Ms. Michaelis also discussed the roles and responsibilities of School Resource Officers ("SRO") and School Security Officers ("SSO") as defined by current legislation, with a focus on the distinction between the two positions. She shared statewide data regarding full- and part-time SRO placement at schools throughout Virginia. Additional discussion topics included a breakdown of threat assessment best practices and corollary data, a deep dive into the results of the VCSCS's most-recent school climate survey, training opportunities provided by the VCSCS, and a list of additional resources and curricula related to school safety. Ms. Michaelis also discussed current partnerships enjoyed by the VCSCS.

Discussion centered around the reasons for the reduction in reported bullying cases, the VCSCS's stance on armed mentors in schools, and the desire for a response-time data comparison between armed SROs and law-enforcement officers arriving from off-campus.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the Task Force:

- **Anna Redding**, a teacher at Bellwood Elementary, spoke in favor of the armed mentor program presented by Cpl. Bowen.

- **Jennifer Rudd**, principal of Bellwood Elementary, spoke in favor of the armed mentor program presented by Cpl. Bowen.
- **Carolyn Schallmo**, president of the Chesterfield County Council of PTAs (“CCCPTA”), expressed the CCCPTA’s support for the work of the Task Force and stated that the organization would help in any way it could.
- **Maggie Schallmo**, recent graduate of Monacan High, expressed concern over the desensitization and apathy to school violence reported by her fellow students. She stated the importance of fostering connections between teachers and students.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Co-chair Moran announced that the next School Safety Task Force meeting would take place at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 19, 2018 in the Thomas Fulghum Center at CTC@Hull.

Sen. Dance asked if it would be possible to include student recommendations in the September agenda.

Upon motion of **Mr. Holland**, seconded by **Mr. Winslow**, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 12:04 p.m.