

# DRAFT

## SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE MEETING

Oct. 31, 2018 at 9 a.m.

CTC@HULL - ROOM D136

**PRESENT:** 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; Donald R. Fairheart, Interim Superintendent, Chesterfield County Public Schools; Matthew Wilkerson, Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department; Dr. Joe Casey, County Administrator, Chesterfield County; Col. Jeffrey Katz, Chief of Police, Chesterfield County; Frank LaRuffa, Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Chesterfield County; Sonia Smith, President, Chesterfield Education Association; Debbie Burcham, Executive Director, Community Services Board; John Murray, Principal, Matoaca High; Kristin Tait, Assistant Principal, Swift Creek Elementary; Reginald Terry, Teacher, Meadowbrook High; Jennifer Deckert, Teacher, Harrowgate Elementary; Morgan Rhudy, Student, James River High; Robert Innes, Citizen, Bermuda District; Lisa Mansfield, Citizen, Bermuda District; Stacey Haney, Citizen, Matoaca District; Pam Welch, Citizen, Matoaca District; and, Michele Warden, Citizen, Midlothian District.

---

### **I. WELCOME**

Co-Chair Fornash called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

### **II. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

Upon motion and second, the minutes from the Oct. 2, 2018 Task Force meeting were unanimously approved.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following speakers addressed the committee:

- **Kathryn Haines** discussed the importance of addressing the mental health needs of CCPS students.
- **Ron Hall**, Working Group #3 member, shared his concerns regarding the recommendations put forth by his working group.
- **Brenda Stewart**, member of the School Board’s Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, shared her concerns regarding unsecured school doors.
- **Bonnie Reid**, a retired school psychologist, recommended extending mental health supports at the school level.
- **Jackie Ruiz** shared her concerns regarding the tabled armed mentor program.

#### **IV. UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUP #3 ON RECOMMENDATION #3 - STUDENT CONDUCT AND STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

**Chad Knowles**, CCPS Constituent Services and Student Leadership Coordinator, presented a revised Recommendation #3 to the Task Force, which contained additional language regarding the legally-required reporting of students under the influence of controlled substances.

The Task Force accepted this revised recommendation.

#### **V. REPORT FROM WORKING GROUP #1 - PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CHESTERFIELD SCHOOLS AND CHESTERFIELD POLICE**

**John Erbach**, CCPS School Board Chair and Dale District representative, and **Dr. John Gordon**, CCPS Chief of Schools, presented the group’s recommendations to the Task Force:

1. The role of the School Resource Officer (“SRO”) should be clearly defined to the staff, students, and the school community.
2. Chesterfield County Public Schools should revise the current communication plan to building administration with the creation of a School Command Control Emergency Communications Coordinator within the Chesterfield County Emergency Communication Center and a school safety app that includes emergency text notifications.
3. CCPS and the Chesterfield Police Department should release an Annual Transparency Report that details school safety statistics and strategies that were used to resolve threats.
4. CCPS should develop a five-year budget plan to increase School Resource Officer coverage to all schools with a focus on the elementary level. This plan should include a

recommendation from the Board to advocate for the General Assembly to provide an exception for recently-retired law enforcement to retain their retirement benefits if they serve as School Resource Officers.

**Discussion** topics included: budget considerations with regard to SRO expansion; a clarification of items to be included in the proposed transparency report; Working Group #1's survey methodology; additional information regarding the proposed five-year budget plan; the possibility of additional data collection; the need for funding prioritization; the need to reduce false-alarm calls to schools; clarification of the appropriate role of an SRO as opposed to a school administrator; and, the importance of addressing root causes of mental illness.

Following discussion, the Task Force accepted all of the proposed recommendations.

## **VI. NEXT STEPS**

1. **Co-Chair Fornash** briefed the Task Force on the next steps of the process.

**Discussion** centered around the importance of communicating effectively with state representatives; budgetary considerations; the need to define the scope of work moving forward; and, prioritization of the recommendations.

## **VII. CLOSING REMARKS**

**Mr. Erbach** thanked the members of the Task Force and the working groups. He also thanked the Co-Chairs for their help and hard work, as well as Dr. Siddiqi and Mrs. Smith for representing the School Board on the Task Force. He also expressed his gratitude to CCPS staff.

**Co-Chair Fornash** echoed Mr. Erbach's statements, thanking everyone for their time and work.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Co-Chair Fornash** adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.