March 7, 2018

Lighthouse Schedule

Students met during Lighthouse Period and pondered security/safety issues. In reviewing safety measures, the following suggestions for enhancing school safety and security were prioritized for consideration. (This poll originated in Barron County, Kentucky.)

* Additional Law Enforcement presence in our schools (School Resource Officers - SRO)
  + Students liked the idea of an officer in the school, but noted that they do see an affordability issue.
* Emergency buttons/phone apps for initiating a campus alerts
  + Students noted that apps were inexpensive, low-risk, and non-invasive.  They also noted that they could be very effective at warning students in a discreet manner.
* Metal Detectors for middle & high school students
  + Cost and time issues.
* Physical/structural changes at school or in classrooms
  + Glass doors are easily broached.
* Armed Staff Members (Tasers, Mace, Guns, etc.)
  + Serious disagreement on what type of weapon they should have.
* Backpack searches
  + Students worry about privacy intrusion and the amount of time it would take to get into school.
* Increase in mental health/counseling services
  + Only one counselor on site.
* Clear backpacks for students
  + Privacy issue.
* Parent/community awareness and information sessions
  + Students saw no harm in this option.  However, they failed to see how “talking about it” could make a difference.

Additional comments:

* Suggest going straight to the classrooms/hallways instead of the lobby and the gym.
* Police presence in morning and afternoon when doors are not locked.

These talking points were also available. Follow-up will be held during future Lighthouse events.

Additional talking points:

* Students in this school treat the teachers with respect.
* My classmates behave the way my teachers wants them to.
* Student behavior in this school is under control.
* My teachers in this school make me feel that s/he really cares about me.
* My teachers really try to understand how students feel about things.
* My teachers seem to know if something is bothering me.
* My teachers respect my ideas and suggestions.
* My teachers want us to share our thoughts.
* Students speak up and share their ideas about this school.
* Teachers and other adults at this school listen to student’s ideas about the school.
* My teachers give us time to explain our ideas
* What is the most pressing safety need in your school?
* My teachers treat some students better than me.
* Students at this school are bullied.
* My teachers notice if I am having trouble.
* Help is available when students need someone to talk to.
* How can we help educate students on the importance of school safety?
* Tip Line 270.905.0042 and Tip Box in the Media Center.

The Pike Co. school board gave preliminary approval Monday to allow teachers and staff to carry guns, the *Lexington Herald-Leader* reported. Under the proposal, the school board's attorney would work with the Pike County Sheriff's Office to finalize a formal policy. Nearly everyone who spoke during the board meeting supported the proposal. Teachers and other staff members would be trained by the sheriff's office.

Gov. Matt Bevin said on National Public Radio that gun control and metal detectors aren’t enough to protect schools, WFPL of Louisville reported. He said lawmakers must be serious and open-minded to determine the root cause of evil, including student depression and the impact of social media and the use of personal devices, as well as the culture of violence in video games, TV shows and music lyrics.

"It’s just a matter of time before somebody will breach whatever security measure is put in place. If someone truly wants to perpetrate evil, it has always been able to be done. It’s a sad and tragic reality."

[—Gov. Matt Bevin, discussing violence in schools on NPR’s Morning Edition, as reported by the *Lexington Herald-Leader*](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001RVkL9ZVR7P0XtijJR0zuCNnTtR-SOagDpX1R11FNFS65i7U-a5bOdCGsqSOH0VJQAKKVUHx3e2Bd-9xUohucM53JGIjZDeGdTz6w7iIyLE2J5z165LJQKfht_14ixF1NRwDyB47-4W7bTaeTJrv9vElx_yFmhMziiiti8X4SF8NSKrYkw0Wo_QWbm-Gf2m0B&c=98UgOm67uLjvziXZ3tYG4p8dA7g2bBgu7Ri4DIMyNivis7kMERybEg==&ch=oE_HPwp5eh7patC27iLkK94V7FDf4__iMin4y1c2kpz2eghti8QkyQ==)

<http://www.careersafeonline.com/index.php/school-safety-active-shooter-psa>