# Safe Schools Update for Newport Board of Education

**The following is an update on NISD Safe Schools:**

**School Level Items:**

- **Security Vestibules:** All schools have security vestibules with sally ports. The reason behind the sally port is so individuals can be held in an area without having immediate access to the school interior. This allows our office staff to determine if the individual is upset, acting suspicious, etc…. prior to allowing them into the building. If office staff have a concern, they should contact the school administrator, or SRO, to determine next steps.
- **Office Panic Buttons:** All schools have panic buttons they can utilize which would lock all office doors not controlled as part of the sally port. If an individual presents themselves as a threat, the office staff needs to go into an immediate lock down for the building. Administrators and SRO's should be involved immediately. Once time allows the Central Office is to be notified. This would include the Superintendent, DPP, and Safe Schools administrator.
- **School Resource Officers:** Each school now has an active SRO stationed in their building, with the exception of NSOI. Each SRO has an office area where they have access to a TV monitor that has the cameras for the building. This provides them the ability to routinely scan all areas, both inside and outside, for any abnormal activities taking place. Also, the SRO's have immediate contact in the event further outside resources are needed for any situation.
- **Classroom Locks:** All classrooms are equipped so they can be locked. As part of our safe school's protocol, ALL classrooms are to be locked anytime students are in the room. As part of our continuing improvements, we also frequently replace door hardware, doors, and deadbolts in order to maintain classroom security.
- **Classroom Doors:** We have replaced several doors, both inside and out, to maintain controlled access to these areas.
- **Classroom Door Blinds:** All classroom hallway doors have been equipped with door blinds that release with the pull of a Velcro patch. This allows our staff to immediately respond to any lockdown requirement with a simple pull. At NIS, almost all doors have the sidelights. All of the classroom sidelights at NIS have been equipped with the security blinds as well.
- **Classroom Numbers:** All classrooms are identifiable with room numbers visible from the outside. Each room number is located on the right-hand side of the room from the interior (outside these numbers would be from the left side). The next room number symbolizes the beginning of the next room so in the event of an emergency it is easy to determine where a room begins and ends.
- **Exterior Door Exit Numbers/Letters:** Currently we are working on mounting exit doors with an exit letter and number both inside and outside the door. The letter allows for the easy location of the side of the building while the number indicates where it is at on the side of the building. This allows for anyone needing to exit a building in an emergency to let law enforcement, administrators, etc… know where they will be exiting the building or where a potential threat is located.
- **Cameras in the buildings:** All schools have cameras in the buildings, with the exception of NSOI, as well as outside. These cameras are on live time but can also be utilized to go back and see what was taking place at a certain time, date, location, etc… in each building. We have enough storage space for approximately 28 days that we can review. These cameras are viewable in the front office area, SRO office area, on the principal's laptops, and at the Central Office with Mr. Grayson and Ms. Baldwin. We have been able to assist the Newport Police Dept in some situations since they have been installed.

- **Outside lighting enhanced:** At both NHS and NPS we have been able to install additional lighting around the outside of the buildings to assist with safety and security. We are currently looking at enhancing the outside lighting at NIS/Welcome Center. There are a variety of issues, mostly tree locations that are creating some issues.
- **Fencing around NIS playground:** As part of our continuing security improvements, we added fencing to the NIS playground. As part of the fencing, we also added two secure gates to the playground to provide two ways to egress the area if needed. This was an ongoing concern due to the volume of foot traffic at times through the school campus. It allows us to have a more secure location for our students to get outside.
- **Emergency Operations Plan/EOP:** Each school is required to provide an Emergency Operation Plan at the beginning of each year. This plan has to be approved by SBDM and/or Mr. Watts. The plan is then shared with emergency personnel in Newport such as fire and police departments. School administrators are to review their EOP at the beginning of each school year with all staff. This allows for the implementation of the plan in the event of a crisis situation at their school. Any new staff member who comes into their building is required to review the plan. This plan should be reviewed at various times throughout the school year to keep the faculty up to date and familiar with expectations. NaviGate Prepared is also part of this.
- **NaviGate Prepared:** NaviGate Prepared is an app that allows our administrators and staff to communicate during any crisis situation. Teachers are able to initiate a lockdown if they suspect an issue or have a concern about safety, etc… Each school is to review this app with all staff members in the event there is an emergency situation. The app allows staff to report all students present or absent from their classroom during as an example a fire drill. It also allows them to add any additional students to their roster they may have picked up during the drill or situation.
- **Raptor System:** The Raptor System is to be utilized every time a visitor enters your building. The program immediately runs a back ground check on the individual. It also creates a visible pass that is to be worn at all times while in the building. This should also include time, location, etc… of where the individual is heading.
- **Radios:** We have numerous radios in each building. These radios are utilized by administrative team members, staff, custodians, etc… to communicate with one another for a variety of reasons.

District Level Items:
- **Ky Center for Safe Schools Safe Schools Assessments:** We have scheduled a couple of these since I have been in this role. They provide valuable feedback to each building. Once completed the assessment is reviewed and all areas of concern are addressed. An assessment was scheduled this year, but due to COVID all assessments were cancelled until the first of the year. With the increase in COVID cases, I do not anticipate any more assessments this year.
- **KY Center for Safe Schools Threat Assessment Training:** All schools have been a part of the KCSS Threat Assessment Training. This training was designed for schools to develop their own Threat Assessment Procedures. However, after initial review of our submitted plans, we realized we needed a more consistent plan throughout the district. Ms. Stewart, Dr. Dalzell, and Mr. Grayson, have created a Threat Assessment Procedures Document that is more detailed and matches the assessments we will be utilizing for the schools to follow in addressing the threat assessments for each school.
- **Dr. Dalzell: Threat Assessments:** The addition of Dr. Dazell has enabled our district to have someone experienced in doing Threat Assessments. However, it would be unfair to expect Dr. Dalzell to administer all Threat Assessments. The new threat assessment materials being used can be administered by almost anyone with some training. Dr. Dalzell will work with each of the school's guidance counselors and administration to provide any needed training.

- **State Compliance Officer:** The state compliance officer assigned to our district, Fred Scroggins, has been a huge asset since starting. He has provided invaluable insight since his arrival.
- **NaviGate Prepared:** District has purchased this for schools over the last few years.
- **Work with DPP:** Ms. Stewart has been a great addition. We collaborate on a variety of items as many of our issues overlap. This has created greater consistency between our departments and increased efficiency.

**Additional Items being worked on:**

- **District Crisis Radio System:** Currently working with MobileComm on purchasing a district wide scanning radio system which will allow Central Office to monitor all radios and if needed serve as a district crisis radio communication for all administrative teams and the Central Office. This would provide us greater flexibility.
- **Ballistic Window Covering:** This is a clear film that would go over some of our entrances in order to provide a greater level of protection in the event of an active shooter situation where someone was trying to come into the building.
- **Raptor System:** Currently looking into other systems that may be more effective than our current NaviGate Prepared system. Many districts have turned to the Raptor system due to additional flexibility within that system. I have a virtual meeting on the Feb. 23rd with the company.
- **Reunifcation Procedures:** One of the issues that I'm working to improve is our Reunification Plan. After attending a session at KASA, I know we can improve on our current plans to make it more efficient. This would potentially move reunification away from our school buildings and create a better system to address any issues that would come about from an active shooter type situation.
- **Threat Assessment Procedures:** Threat Assessment Procedures are being finalized based on the new materials purchased and their implementation. Thanks to Ms. Stewart and Dr. Dalzell.
- **Collaboration with DPP on School Safety items:** Continue to work with Ms. Stewart in making sure all areas of concern are being addressed since some of the issues overlap. Items such as the Implementation of effective discipline, threat assessment procedures, etc…