

Primary School Safety Advisory Committee Recommendations

Our focus is emergency preparedness at the primary level.

We are pleased with the direction of the school district and appreciative of the opportunity to be involved.

We are concerned with the communication breakdown. The District is providing appropriate information but parents are not accessing the information about what has been done, what is being planned and what is reasonable. We are concerned that somehow not all information is reaching all families.

While we understand that there is no stopping someone determined to do harm, we believe that a high number of both physical and other barriers is the best deterrent and will enable the EAP to be implemented quickly.

We would like to see an increase in the number of adults who provide proactive mental health resources to students at all levels, including, but not limited to school counselors, school nurses and SROs.

At the primary school level, there is a greater dependence on the staff and teachers to assist the students; students may be slower to react and harder to move to safety quickly. We have concerns about students who are not within the classroom, or directly supervised (in bathroom, on the way to busses, in the office) being locked out of safe places in an emergency.

Before the dissolution of the advisory committee we would like a status report on our recommendations from the School Board.

Priorities at the Primary School level:

1. An equitable approach to installing high-priority safety features to all primary school buildings across the district.
2. Classroom doors should be easy to lock from the inside and/or outside. All exterior gates and doors should swing shut and latch automatically.
3. Implement recommendations from third-party consultant for safe entryways at Boones Ferry, Cedaroak, Stafford, Willamette (Boeckman Creek and Bolton updates planned for summer 2018)
4. Provide increased amount of mental health services provided to students in need and aid families in navigating access to those services. Create a system for teachers, counselors and case managers to flag significant mental health concerns and access outside experts from the relevant fields.
5. Secured perimeter at schools, which may or may not be physical, like fencing or cameras. Review on a school-by-school basis.
6. Safety glass on all windows at the main entry at all primary schools.
7. Remote auto-locking front doors or anteroom doors at all schools.
8. Review of evacuation routes to make sure they are clear of environmental hazards and structures.

9. Training/communication on check in/check out procedure to provide consistency throughout the district during school hours and after school activities. Create a district-wide policy for before/aftercare and enrichment programs.
10. Continue to use third-party consultants on an ongoing basis so that we stay up and current with SOP.