



CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Answers to questions submitted by attendees of the March 8, 2018
School Safety Forum*

Q. Is it possible to put more announcement systems in the hallways and restrooms so teachers and students are more aware of what is going on?

A. *The installation process for additional speakers in the hallways is in progress.*

Q. Classroom doors open out and are difficult to get into when closed and locked; are the teachers keeping the doors locked?

A. *The doors are to be pre-locked and shut during teaching when possible.*

Q. Since active shooters are often kids and kids are permitted to bring music, art, and athletics bags that could conceal a weapon into buildings, what preventative measure is in place?

A. *Unfortunately, we cannot eliminate risk in every situation. Requiring mesh or clear book bags will be discussed; however, the difficulty is that students are required to bring items to school for co- and extra-curricular participation housed in sports bags or instrument cases. Students also routinely bring other items such as purses, etc.*

Q. Have you considered random bag checks at schools?

A. *Purely random bag checks would be challenged based on the students' 4th Amendment rights. Per *New Jersey v TLO (1985)*, school districts are held to a standard of "reasonable suspicion" which requires a level of suspicion that a specific student is in possession of an item that violates the code of conduct. Any time we suspect a student has an item in violation of the code, a search is conducted in accordance with Board Policy and law.*

Q. Are volunteers, including PTA members, required to have background checks before being allowed to enter our buildings?

A. *Only volunteers who work with students outside the supervision of certified staff members must be background checked. If volunteers are chaperoning overnight field trips, then a background check is required.*

Q. When are discussions regarding "run, hide, fight" strategies as opposed to "hiding" going to occur?

A. *We are planning an active shooter training session with staff. In the training, we anticipate a discussion about the plan. A City Safety Committee meeting is being held during the week of March 19 at which this discussion may be held. After those discussions, we will follow-up with a student discussion.*

Q. When and what is the plan to address security and entrance into Lincoln Elementary School?

A. *Until we are able to make structural changes, the plan is to add hallway security cameras. We are currently pursuing additional funding to add more interior cameras throughout the district. We will be adding 52 exterior cameras across the district during spring break.*

Q. As a parent, are there any committees, groups, etc. regarding safety that you would encourage involvement?

A. *Currently, there are no such parent committees. However, the administration and Safety Forces participate in quarterly City Safety Committee Meetings. Each building has a Safety Committee. We will encourage greater parental participation.*

Q. Does the secretary at Silver Lake Elementary School have a camera monitor at the front door?

A. Yes. Each building does.

Q. Have you considered giving ID badge access to the YMCA before/after care counselors? If they leave the building, they do not have access to get back in if there is an emergency.

A. We are limiting access to as few people as possible. The YMCA BASE program personnel have a phone chain protocol.

Q. Do the kids know where the first aid kits are in each classroom?

A. This is a very good question. We will have them placed in a conspicuous location and make their existence well known.

Q. Do the kids know that the “bad guy” can be another kid, it doesn’t have to be an adult?

A. We will pursue the opportunity to have age-appropriate conversations with students led by school personnel and safety forces staff.

Q. Is it possible to have a fulltime counselor in each school to spread support throughout the school and advocate for mental health?

A. We would love to have full-time counselors in each building including mental health counselors. We are fortunate to have a full-time mental health counselor and a full-time behavioral specialist in the district. Unfortunately, this is a staffing issue. Without additional resources, we cannot add additional counseling positions.

Q. Is it possible to monitor what kids bring into the building upon arrival? If metal detectors are not an option, could school personnel monitor the kids?

A. Administrators and staff are in place to observe the entrances while the students are coming into school buildings. Per above, we cannot randomly search students upon entrance. Each metal detector would cost between \$6,000 and \$10,000 plus staffing to monitor traffic.