

I. Call to Order

Call to Order: Chairman Holcomb

- Present: District 1 – Joe Arnold
 District 2 – Malissa Morgan
 District 3 – Dixie Ball, Vice Chairman
 District 4 – Amanda Riedel
 District 5 – Jill Holcomb, Chairman
- Ken Kenworthy, Superintendent of Schools
 Tom Conely, School Board Attorney

Invocation: Tom Conely
 Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Holcomb

II. Purpose


Jill Holcomb, Chairman

To further increase the safety and security of our schools the District is seeking public input as it considers the implementation of the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program.

III. Information/Discussion Items

Chairman Holcomb gave an overview of the workshop. The Chairman presented the procedure for audience members that want to address the Board during the Public Comment portion of the workshop. Audience members were invited to attend the School Board meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 6:00 p.m. for more information or and address the Board. The Guardian Program will be on the April School Board Agenda as an Item for Action.

Superintendent Kenworthy welcomed the audience and applauded Board members for having the workshop and hosting it in the Commission Chambers for additional viewing. Superintendent Kenworthy presented a power point presentation, sharing detailed information with each slide. In addition to information on the Guardian Program, the Superintendent shared safety, preventative and proactive measures already in place that will supplement any new program put in place.



COACH AARON FEIS GUARDIAN PROGRAM

School Board Workshop
 April 5, 2018
 6:00pm
 Okeechobee County Commission Chambers

WORKSHOP AGENDA

I. Purpose of Meeting: To further increase the safety and security of our schools, the District is seeking public input as it considers the implementation of the Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program.

II. Workshop Organization

III. District presentation regarding Safety and Security

IV. Overview of Guardian Program

V. Comments by Sheriff Noel Stephen

VI. Survey Results

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Closing Remarks– After all speakers have been heard or 8:00pm whichever comes first – Overflow options

PUBLIC COMMENT

School Board Policy 2.20 – Board Meetings



1. Parties wishing to address the Board shall sign up to speak on the form provided.
2. Forms are to be submitted to the Board Attorney.
3. When called, speakers must come to the podium.
4. Speakers will have 5 minutes to address the Board.
5. Depending on the number of speakers, we are encouraging the following:
 - If your name is called to speak and you do not have anything new to say, you may waive your time for or against the program.
 - The meeting will conclude after all speakers have been given an opportunity to address the Board or at 8:00pm whichever comes first.
 - If there are additional requests to address the Board that were not heard tonight, speakers may address the Board at it's regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 10, 2018.

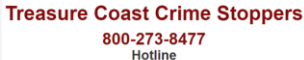

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Comprehensive safety plans for the district and each school site with assigned roles
- Employee/visitor identification badges – randomly tested
- Locked classroom doors
- Status checks of emergency communication devices
- Safety drills conducted at all schools
- Security camera installation

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Partnership with Sheriff:
 - DARE
 - Cyber Security
 - Stranger Danger
- Crime Stoppers Hotline
- Comprehensive Anti-Bully Curriculum – Title IV
- Technology Training for ALL students – IT Department


THREAT ASSESSMENTS

Team:

- Law Enforcement
- Licensed Mental Health Counselor
- School Personnel


Determine Outcome
 Immediate Actions
 Follow-Up

- Desire to Hurt
- Plan to Hurt
- Access to Weapons
- Intent, Ability, Means & Motive



- Threat to Self
- Threat to Others
- Was it Direct, Conditional, or Veiled?

- Stressors
- Family Dynamics
- School Dynamics
- Grief
- Divorce
- Abuse
- Incarceration



- Appearance
- Sleep Patterns
- Emotions
- Responsive
- Depression

Minutes of
 Okeechobee County School Board Workshop – Guardian Program
 April 5, 2018
 6:00 p.m.

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRAINING



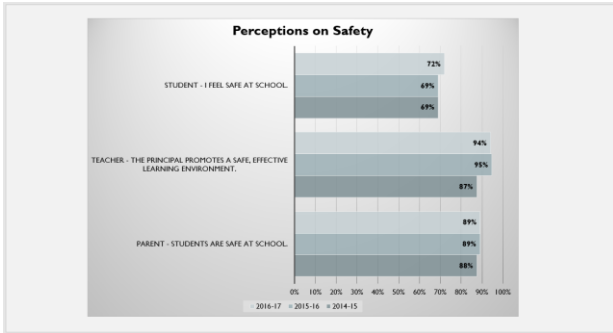
- Occurred March 16, 2018
- Topics
 - Run – Hide – Fight, Definitions and Descriptions
 - Staff Roles
 - Learnings from Previous Incidents
 - Warning Signs
 - School Procedures
 - Situational Awareness
 - Adaptions for Situations
 - Question & Answer Session

SCHOOL SECURITY WALK-THROUGHS

Team:

- Law Enforcement
- District Administration
- School Administration
- Access Control
- Communication Systems
- Scheduling of Drills
- Security Camera Operation
- Developed Priority List





SB 7026 – MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

- Creates and staffs Office of Safe Schools within FLDOE
- Creates Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program
- Mandates Crime Watch Program
- Requires Active Shooter Drills
- Establishes "FortifyFL" – Anonymous reporting tool
- Requires, upon enrollment, disclosure of referrals to mental health services
- Requires functionality tests of communication systems

SB 7026 – MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

- Requires Court to share information with school districts on those individuals referred for mental health services
- Requires assignment of safety school officer at each school by any of the following:
 - School Resource Officer
 - School Safety Officer
 - School Guardian Program
- Requires Threat Assessment Team
- Requires training using evidence-based youth mental health awareness and assistance training program for school personnel

SB 7026 – MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

- Requires, after re-development, use of the online risk assessment tool known as Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT)
- Funding for fixed capital outlay for improving security of school buildings
- Exempts safety measures from Cost per Student Station Calculation
- Requires FLDOE to develop Youth Mental Health Awareness Training
- Funds Guardian Program
- Increases Safe Schools Allocation to fund School Resource Officers
- Funding for Procurement of Active Shooter Training

2018-19 MENTAL HEALTH ALLOCATION

Supplemental funding to assist in expanding comprehensive school-based mental health programs

- Increase awareness
- Training staff in detecting and responding to mental health issues
- Connect children, youth and families with appropriate services
- District must contract with a behavioral health provider or Community Action Team
 - Provide mental health screenings and assessments
 - Individual, family and group counseling
 - Psychiatric or psychological services
 - Trauma Informed Care
 - Mobile Crisis Services
 - Behavior modification

Allocation Summary:

- Minimum Allocation = \$100,000
- Allocation based on UWFTE = \$139,890
- Total Allocation = \$239,890

Additional Requirements:

- Training topics must include depression and mood disorders, anxiety disorders, trauma, psychosis, substance abuse disorders and suicide prevention.
- Coverage includes risk factors and warning signs
- Strategies for providing assistance in crisis and non-crisis situations
- Use of referral system to link individual to service provider

CURRENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- 461 students currently receiving Mental Health Services
 - 50 more students pending
- District currently employs:
 - Two Crisis Counselors
 - One Social Worker
- Outside Agency Partnerships:
 - Castle, Changing Tree, Hibiscus, Legacy, New Horizons, Psychotherapy Associates, Sequel Care, Suncoast, Tykes & Teens

2018-19 SAFE SCHOOLS ALLOCATION

Goal:

- School Resource Officer in every school

Joint Workshop Scheduled to determine funding

- School Board
- County Commission
- City Council
- Wednesday, April 11, 2018 @ 6:00pm
- Location: County Commission Chambers

Allocation Summary:

- Minimum Allocation = \$250,000
- Allocation based on UWFTE = \$44,632
- Allocation based on Crime Index = \$89,378
- SRO Allocation = \$189,323
- Total Allocation = \$573,333

A joint workshop will be held with the School Board, County Commission and City Council in this room on Wednesday, April 11, 6:00, to discuss funding the enhanced School Resource Officer Program. Superintendent Kenworthy stated that the Guardian Program is a voluntary program on behalf of the Board and likewise voluntary to school staff to participate. The statute is very specific as to who can participate.

Minutes of
Okeechobee County School Board Workshop – Guardian Program
April 5, 2018
6:00 p.m.

COACH AARON FEIS GUARDIAN PROGRAM

- Voluntary Program allowing specified personnel to carry weapon
- The following individuals are EXCLUDED from participation:
 - 1012.01 (2)(s) Definitions – Classroom teachers – Classroom teachers are staff members assigned the professional activity of instructing students in courses in classroom situations, including basic instructional, exceptional student education, career education, and adult education, including substitute teachers.
 - Who could volunteer? Principals, Assistant Principals, Resource Specialists, Deans, Guidance Counselors, Education Support Personnel, Media Specialists or Instructional Coaches that do not teach individual classes.
 - Classroom teacher exception allowed for JROTC Instructors, current service members, current or former law enforcement officers.

COACH AARON FEIS GUARDIAN PROGRAM

- Sheriff who chooses to establish the program shall appoint without power of arrest, school employees who volunteer after complying with the following:
 - Holds valid license to carry
 - Completes 132 hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training by certified instructors
 - 80 hours of firearm instruction
 - 16 hours of instruction in precision pistol
 - 8 hours of discretionary shooting instruction using state-of-the-art simulator instruction
- 8 hours of instruction in active shooter or assailant scenarios
- 8 hours of instruction in defensive tactics
- 12 hours of instruction in legal issues
- Pass a psychological evaluation
- Submit and pass initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests
- Successfully complete on-going training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis
- Successfully complete at least 12 hours of a certified, nationally recognized diversity training

COMMENTS BY SHERIFF NOEL STEPHEN

Chairman Holcomb invited Sheriff Stephen to the podium. Sheriff Stephen stated that he supports the Guardian Program, in addition to the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program. The Sheriff said he feels the number of volunteers will be few, but that he has the capability of taking those few, with proper training as stated in the statute, and train them to proficiency. The guardians would be in addition to the SROs to protect students in the event of a situation. The Sheriff invited questions from the Board and audience.

Guardian Program Survey

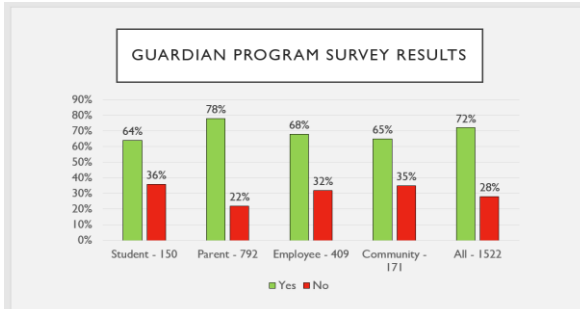
Guardian Program Survey

The School Board wants your opinion. Please respond to this two question survey. Florida passed a law that would allow selected school personnel that volunteer, excluding classroom teachers, carry a firearm to confront an active shooter. The program is called Guardian Program and would be supervised by the Sheriff's Office. It allows selected non-classroom teachers that have a concealed weapons permit to take 132 hours of instruction in firearms, simulator exercises, assailant scenarios, defensive tactics, legal issues, and diversity training before approval. In addition, selected employees would have to pass a psychological examination, ongoing drug tests, weapon inspection, and firearms qualification. Please respond to these two questions:

1. Please identify yourself as one of the following:

2. Do you believe the School Board should develop a policy that allows specified non-classroom teachers or staff to participate in the Guardian Program?

Superintendent Kenworthy discussed the survey and how it was distributed to high school students, parents, employees and community members. The survey period was three days.



Chairman Holcomb thanked Superintendent Kenworthy and again reviewed the procedure for audience members to address the Board. The Chairman extended an invitation to attend the School Board meeting Tuesday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

School Board Policy 2.20 – Board Meetings

1. Parties wishing to address the Board shall sign up to speak on the form provided.
2. Forms are to be submitted to the Board Attorney.
3. When called, speakers must come to the podium.
4. Speakers will have 5 minutes to address the Board.
5. Depending on the number of speakers, we are encouraging the following:
 - If your name is called to speak and you do not have anything new to say, you may waive your time for or against the program.
 - The meeting will conclude after all speakers have been given an opportunity to address the Board or at 8:00pm whichever comes first.
 - If there are additional requests to address the Board that were not heard tonight, speakers may address the Board at it's regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 10, 2018.

Attorney Conely invited audience members, who completed a Request to Address School Board form to speak at the podium. First to speak, Frank Peterman. Mr. Peterman, Treasure Coast Service Unit Director, OCEA, expressed concern over the hours of training for a Guardian compared to hours required for law enforcement officer training. He also expressed concern for staff actions in a crisis situation, cost of insurance and potential law suits and liability.

Gordy Peer expressed concern over automatic weapons and the breakdown of the family/home life. Mr. Peer said that we should let the Sheriff do his job, teachers should not carry guns.

Kenny Sarros, stated that he has faith in the schools and the Sheriff. This program is a good step in the right direction to protect students.

Sharon Suits, teacher, spoke about the recent Sheriff's office training in the schools and followed the training to develop a classroom plan. Ms. Suits stated the Guardian Program could provide immediate

Minutes of
Okeechobee County School Board Workshop – Guardian Program
April 5, 2018
6:00 p.m.

action while help is on the way, supporting the SROs and be another tool to keep kids safer. People carrying and ready keep our kids safer.

Dowling Watford, Mayor, stated he likes that this is a supplement to the SRO program. He likes that it is voluntary, that it requires strict training and evaluation. Mr. Watford encouraged members to take the Sheriff's recommendation, that this is a good program to have.

Tommy Harden stated that the law enforcement training is 800 hours, shooting time on range about 48 hours. Mr. Harden left members with, "if you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always got."

Angela Williams, parent, shared a story about her son and concerns about going to school. Ms. Williams said that she stands behind the Sheriff and the training and that this will give power to protect the children.

Anita Nunez was taught about the safety of a gun and feels Board members will make right decision.

Gordy Peer shared a closing poem.

Chairman Holcomb asked Board members for comments or questions.

Member Arnold thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated that this is a tough decision and that our job is to protect and teach the children, we must weigh every option and their safety is a priority. Whatever policy we choose, the students are who we focus on.

Chairman Holcomb thanked everyone for caring about children and invited them to attend the Tuesday, April 10, School Board meeting, where the Guardian Program will be an Item for Action.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the Board adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the School Board is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 700 S.W. 2nd Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Signature on File

Jill Holcomb
Chairman

Signature on File

Ken Kenworthy
Superintendent of Schools