



## **WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

321 Village Road East  
West Windsor, NJ 08550-0505  
Phone: (609) 716-5000, Ext. 5040  
E-mail: david.aderhold@ww-p.org

David Aderhold, EdD  
Superintendent of Schools

April 12, 2018

### **Re: West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Security Update**

Recent tragic incidents remind us of the need to constantly re-evaluate the security of our schools. In the WW-P Regional School District, we work closely with law enforcement officials to ensure that staff and students know what to do in an emergency.

We continue to work on preventative measures and to remind students that when they see something suspicious, it is critical to report that concern to an adult. Our staff remains vigilant in working to meet the social and emotional needs of students. We work proactively to support students socially and emotionally and remain proactive in identifying potential risks.

### **CURRENT SECURITY MEASURES**

While I am not at liberty to discuss all of the steps that the district has taken in the areas of safety and security, I can tell you that the district has invested in a variety of safety and security upgrades over the past few years. Some of these measures include:

- Positioned security staff at the entrance of all school buildings: Eyes on the Door Program.
- Practiced fire, lockout, lockdown, shelter, evacuate, and hold-in-classroom drills; enhanced drills were practiced during uncommon times, i.e. lunch, passing times.
- Enforced the use of enhanced visitor entrance protocols.
- Installed security cameras throughout the district.
- Utilized lockdown magnets on classroom and office doors.
- Worked closely with the West Windsor and Plainsboro Police Departments.
- Appointed additional student assistance counselors to support the middle school level.
- Encouraged students and staff to practice “See something; Say something” and notify proper authorities if they feel an individual could pose a threat.
- Organized Code Blue Teams (medical emergency teams) at all schools.

*Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character, and love of learning.*

## **TRAINING**

Over the past nine years, WW-P has worked with law enforcement to review safety procedures with staff and administrators. As recommended, we use the *Standard Response Protocols* and consistently rehearse a variety of drills in all our schools.

At a March 2018 training and briefing, we were reminded of these important facts:

- Average incident lasts less than five minutes – establish time barriers.
- Sixty percent of incidents are over before police can arrive on the scene.
- Twenty percent of incidents are occurring in schools, while the greater majority are workplace issues in businesses.
- Social media is a strong presence in security incidents; it can be a source of information that is accurate, but also can be inaccurate.
- Increased signage is important for responders -- placing numbers on windows, doors, etc.

In addition, each of our schools has a School Safety Team, which meets at scheduled intervals to: review and update roles; check materials and supplies; check communication lists; and review drills. Updated information is shared at faculty and staff meetings.

## **NEXT STEPS: Protective Measures/Options for Consideration**

Even with security measures in place, we continue to review possible enhancements and protective measures; these measures may include equipment, personnel, and procedures designed to protect staff and students.

At this time, the administration and Board of Education currently are reviewing the following action items:

- Utilize Class III Police Officers at all facilities. [Class III Police Officers are retired police officers who are trained as school resource officers. Class III Police Officers have full police powers and are allowed to carry a firearm, if authorized by the chief of Police.
- Increase the police presence on school campuses.
- Authorize access of the district camera system to West Windsor Police and Plainsboro Police Departments.

*Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character, and love of learning.*

- Review enhanced visitor control management systems.
- Consider the purchase of additional video surveillance equipment.
- Investigate upgrades to district phone system.
- Analyze enhancements to fire alarm systems.
- Prepare rekeying of door locks at all district facilities.
- Improve room and window signage in all buildings.
- Partner with the Mercer County Rapid Response Team and all other Mercer County School Districts to ensure consistency with protocols and training.
- Contract with mental health providers for enhanced counseling support for staff and students.
- Discuss ways to increase understanding of “See Something, Say Something.”

No one has all of the answers, nor can anyone predict the future. What we do know is that **nothing is more important than the health and safety of students, staff, parents, and community members.** We take safety and security very seriously and, in working with law enforcement officials, the Board of Education, and the staff, we will continue to keep safety measures at the forefront of our attention.

#### **RESOURCES**

- PTA - Parents and School Safety - <http://www.schoolsecurity.org/resource/parents-and-school-safety/>
- School Preparedness and Emergency Planning - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/schools/security/resources/>

Sincerely,

David Aderhold, EdD  
Superintendent of Schools

*Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character, and love of learning.*