



Safety Task Force Minutes May 8, 2007

Parent Co-Chair David Roth called the meeting to order and asked that the committee members to review the minutes of April 24, 2007. The minutes were approved.

Highlights from the Safe Schools Conference

Laura Miller showed a power point overview from the “Keeping out Children Safe: Strategies for Schools and Communities” conference. *The entire Power Point can be found on the ASD website – at the Safety Task Force site under resources.*

Highlights from Michelle Borba’s presentation “From Cruelty to Compassion”:

- Violence is learned
- Children must have empathy
- Change does not happen overnight
- Aggression is exhibited in earlier and earlier ages
- Teach new behaviors/model appropriate behaviors

7 essential virtues:

- Empathy – most essential
- Conscience
- Self Control
- Respect
- Kindness
- Tolerance
- Fairness

Moral Code: 

- Must have a buy in from everyone to affect change
- Weave new concepts into day, do not just add on. Repetition is very important
- Relationships are the core

Motto:

“A place where everybody knows your name and everybody’s glad you came.”

Highlights from Lieutenant Dennis McCauley, “Cyber Bullying” presentation:

- All classic bullying issues now on-line
- Kids can be “followed” into home
- Harassment, hurtful messages, gossip, rating sites
- Impersonation, terroristic threats all occur on-line
- “How to commit suicide” sites exist
- Parents often have no idea what students are doing

- Districts should include cyber ethics in their policies

Highlights from “School Shooter Profile Study” presentation:

- No specific student profile (all types of students)
- Few relationships with others
- Lack of any real connection

Update on Anti-Bullying

Marci Ronald shared the compiled responses from the small group discussions at the April 24 meeting. She emphasized consistency in procedures rose to the forefront and parent training and engagement is of the utmost importance to the committee members. Providing parent workshops are possible at each school. Ms. Ronald then shared a proposed outline.

Dr. Angello indicated there is grant money available to support the committee’s efforts.

Ms. Ronald also shared “*What to do if your child is being bullied*” from “*Stop Bullying Now, Take a Stand, Lend a Hand.*” And *How to Talk with Educators at Your Child’s School About Bullying: Tips for Parents of Bullied Children.*

She suggested core team training for identified priority schools, replenishing of materials, parent training, partnering with other agencies, assess elementary model and reenergizing the school counselors.

She acknowledged that the parent training can take various forms and be offered at varying times.

It was suggested that we notify parents the Safety Committee will be announcing an anti-bullying effort starting in the fall. However, the hand outs from “*Stop Bullying Now!*” could be distributed now. A concern was raised about how we ensure the information is received by all parents.

Mr. O’Connell shared the city’s ideas regarding its desire to be designated as a “No Place for Hate” city. This initiative will dovetail very well with the Safety Task Force efforts/ideas. Further discussion led to the Task Force considering how the city and district efforts could work together.

A question was raised about the fights at Allen High School. Dr. Angello noted that Central office administration must be notified when resolution is not reached. She asked the individual sharing the concern to meet with Mr. O’Connell immediately after the meeting.

Dr. Angello shared the parent letter (sent home 5/7) regarding the attempted abduction. She shared that this letter helped generate tips/information from parents/community.

Mr. Roth distributed a survey asking every committee member to list their safety concerns (3-5) and a strategy for addressing the concerns. After 10 minutes he collected the surveys and will share the results at the next meeting.

Jorge Ramirez was asked to join the Safety Task Force, he accepted.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

