

IDAHO SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD
VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING
Tuesday – June 7, 2022
9:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. (MT)

Idaho State Board of Education
650 W. State St. Suite 307
Boise, ID 83720

*NOTE: The following report is not a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting,
but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.*

Madame Chair Wendy Horman called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. (MT)

Board Members Present:

Representative Wendy Horman, Chair
Matt Freeman, Vice Chair
Senator Lori Den Hartog
Alexandrea Phillips
Dr. Eric Studebaker

OSBE Staff Members Present:

Mike Munger, ISSSP Program Manager
Tara Biddle, Administrative Assistant 1
Guy Bliesner, Southeast School Analyst

Board Members Via ZOOM Live

Terry Cochran
Teresa Luna (Proxy for Brad Richy)
Suzanne Kloefer
Dr. Becky Myer

OSBE Staff Members Via ZOOM Live/Phone

Shanna Lindsay, South Central School Analyst

Board Members Absent:

Bill Deetz
Joe Bongiorno
Perry Grant
Idaho State Police – No Representative Appointed

OTHERS

Sheriff Lynn Bowman
Sheriff David Reed

◆ **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of September 13, 2022 Agenda and June 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Vice Chair Freeman made a motion to approve the September 13, 2022, agenda and the June 7, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Board Member Senator Lori Den-Hartog, seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Verbal Roll Call was taken

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| • Representative Wendy Horman, Chair | AYE | Dr. Eric Studebaker | AYE |
| • Matt Freeman, Vice Chair | AYE | Terry Cochran | AYE |
| • Senator Lori Den Hartog | AYE | Teresa Luna | AYE |
| • Alexandrea Phillips | AYE | Suzanne Kloefer | AYE |
| • Dr. Becky Myer | AYE | | |

◆ INFORMATIONAL AGENDA

2. Office Manager Report – Program Manager Mike Munger

a. Idaho School Safety & Security Program Updates

- Program Manager Mike Munger reported that the 2021/2022 assessment goal was not met due to shutdowns earlier in the school year. Due to this the Legislative Report that will be presented to the Board at the end of the year for approval will look similar to the 2022 Annual Legislative Report.
- The Threat Assessment Reporting Tool has been transferred over to the Readiness and Emergency Management for School (REMS) Assessment Tool App, and is now live. Staff is currently in the process of the annual review of the current questions being asked to make sure they meet industry standards, along with safety practices and procedures to fulfill our statutory requirements. It is expected the questions will be presented to the board for approval at the next board meeting held in September.

b. SRO Update

As previously reported we have been working in conjunction with Department of Juvenile Corrections as well as the Office of Drug Policy and the Department of Education to develop strategies to support the use of School Resource Officers within the State of Idaho and provide standardized training to jurisdictions by a Support Specialist. Through these discussions they were able to come together and craft a job description and use available funding through Juvenile Corrections to hire a part time dedicated Statewide School Resource Officer Support Specialist that would be a part of the ISSSP team. A MOU is currently being worked on between OSBE and Juvenile Corrections for the position.

Board Member, Den Hartog asked for clarification of what Idaho's definition is for an SRO. Program Manager Munger explained that in Idaho we have both SRO's which are school based law enforcement and armed guards depending on the school district. At this time Southeast School Analyst, Guy Bliesner spoke about the recent act of school violence in Texas. In that case they had a sworn police department that was part of the school district. This is not something that is practiced in the state of Idaho, and therefore not a concern.

Vice Chair Freeman asked for clarification about the funding for the position. Program Manger Munger explained that this funding would be coming from an existing grant that the Department of Juvenile Corrections was receiving. This grant has been a reoccurring funding stream for the last 10 years. Although the grant is not guaranteed, it is expected to continue into the future.

Board Member Myer stated that the Lakeland School District currently has three armed guards (1 at each school) that are all retired law enforcement. They are also in the process of hiring a fourth (possibly a fifth depending on size) and have received twenty-nine well qualified applicants. This number of applicants has quadrupled since the last time hiring for the position. The program is working and the people feel secure in the district.

Board Member Studebaker said that he would like to see our group continue to advocate for dedicated funding for security of this type within schools. He stated that currently funding is being pulled from districts' general funds. He would like to see Idaho be the exceptional model for SRO's which means funding, guidance, policy direction and training. Chair Horman, responded that the state currently gives 2 budget items totaling 9-10 million dollars that is sent out to schools that can and are being used for SRO funds.

c. SEE TELL NOW Update

Program Manger Munger reported that the position of the See Tell Now Program Specialist extended an offer to an applicant and is working its way through Human Resources. This position has been vacant since October 2021 due to the timing of the budget. The team has been taking on the responsibilities associated with the program as reported at the last meeting.

It was announced that there have been ongoing conversations with West Ada School District, one of the largest districts' in the state and they are expected to onboard early next school year. This is excepted to increase interest from other schools.

Vice Chair Freeman reminded the board that during the last legislative period the office received ongoing dedicated funding for the See Tell Now Program. He then took this opportunity to thank the legislative members for their support in making that happen.

Board Member, Den Hartog asked what the current number of schools enrolled was and the number of students that that covered. Administrative Assistant Biddle stated that there were 129 schools enrolled of which 41 enrolled this year serving over 55,000 students.

Chair Horman, stated to board members that the See Tell Now App can be downloaded to their phones if they wanted to see how the program operates.

d. Legislative Update

Program Manager Munger reported that he had been working to draft two See Tell Now statutes. The first being that there is a criminal nexus for bad faith reports so the law enforcement has the ability to get involved, and could serve a warrant if needed.

The second was to make sure that reports being sent in are exempt from public records requests. The bill is drafted and working its way through the State Board of Education. The bill is expected to go to legislators in January.

e. Manager Update

- It was reported that an opportunity has arisen to work with Idaho Office of Emergency Management (IOEM) and Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) to receive grant funding in the amount of \$78,000 that is set to expire by August 2024. This money is to be used for mitigation projects specifically in high concentrated public areas with the main component being emergency communication upgrades for mass communications. Our office is currently working with schools that fit this particular need. It is expected more grant funding will become available and we will request additional funds to assist other schools.
- It was reported that the analysts continue to be available to assist schools as substitutes if needed. Southwest Analyst Elliot Cox has been able to assist Compass Charter School as a substitute. This has been a great opportunity for him to see the school and classroom environment first-hand.
- At this time an update was given on the Behavioral Threat Assessment Tool. This was in response to recommendations that came from the Rigby After Action Report. Our office has been working closely with the Idaho Region 7, Department of Health and Welfare with the goal of being well aligned with training that we provide to schools. Our goal is to be able to deliver a template for other regions to formulate a plan that is suitable for them based on their available resources. Our office has also begun to look at the long-term mental health process in schools following a traumatic event.
- It was reported that the analysts have been working with districts on their Emergency Operation Plans (EOP). In doing so conversations have ensued again regarding the need to offer support to higher education as required in statute. Due to the amount of turnover at the institutions there is a need to assist in training and identifying minimum security standards. The office will begin to evaluate how much time is needed and what duties may be required for this while making sure we continue to meet our responsibilities to K-12. Board Member Cochran asked if our office offers support to charter schools. Program Munger explained that they are in our purview of support and that we take additional time with them as they have specialized needs such as siting and setting up new facilities.
- In response to the fourth item of the Managers Report, Chair Horman, asked that Program Manager Munger give a high-level summary of our current behavioral health component in our assessment. Program Munger stated that in reality there are not a lot of options once an aggressor has determined to try to breach the school. However, prior to this a schools' have the following tools.

- Identify behavior of concern
- Record behavior of concern
- Communicating those concerns to people who have the ability to intervene in a situation before it becomes a violent incident.

Schools can put caring adults in appropriate relationships with the students and have the ability to hear students concerns and allow them to feel heard. They also have the ability to teach students how to deal with loss and grief.

Another tool we promote is the See Tell Now Program. This program is the state's confidential reporting system that allows information to be given about a student that is behaving in a way that is concerning before they act out violently. This allows schools, parents, or other resources such as law enforcement or other mental health agencies to work together and intervene prior to a situation reaching a critical phase.

Chair Horman, thanked Program Manager Munger for his analysis. She stated that she had spoken with Director Jeppesen from the Department of Health and Welfare in regard to adding a representative from their agency as an ad hoc Member to our Advisory Board as discussed in our previous meetings. She asked that Program Manger Munger coordinate the necessary steps needed for them to have a place on the Board. She also requested that a list be compiled of resources that are offered in our state for our children. Examples were given such as the Suicide Hotline, Department of Health and Welfare, and training. Along with this it was requested that a list was made of what our office was doing to assist and identify any areas that we could improve. She stated that she would identify the amount of funding currently allocated through public school funding that can be allocated on school safety issues and identify if there are additional needs.

3. Reunification Update - Guy Bliesner, Southeast School Analyst

Analyst Bliesner reported on the ongoing process of putting together the Reunification Plan. He started by researching and determining the standard Best Practices on a national level and seeing what has and hasn't worked. He then formed a group of educators, first responders, and emergency managers from around the state to start developing a plan that could be used as a template throughout the state and could be tailored to both large and small, rural or populated districts based on what resources they have available. They then defined reunification as "returning of children in a schools care to an authorized adult in any event other than a normal day school closure and provide documentation of having done that. This is the most complex issue after an event and almost always is plagued with major problems. This is due to the fact this preparation cannot be practiced in a short

time period. In order to address this issue a “2 Gate Process” was developed. It is called this because there is a “Request Gate” and a “Release Gate.” This process remains the same no matter location. It is expected that the plan will be tested at between 4-6 schools in Pocatello and then with the entire Cassia County School District in the fall. This will allow the plan to be reviewed in different environments. Pocatello will also be having an active shooter drill with mass casualties for their police department and hospitals. Students will exit the facility and role players will be used. Once these dates are set an invitation will be sent to the Board.

Board Member, Hartog addressed the board and asked if the reunification for larger schools can be put in their communication plans. Analyst Bliesner responded that yes it could be. He then gave the example of the Rigby event explaining that once the district identified the victims within 15 minutes they notified those families and then sent out a mass text communication that all families of students injured had been notified so if they had not been notified then their student was safe and please come and get them at the stated location. He then stated that Cassia County School District added their Manual Reunification Form as part of their enrollment package. This allows for stability in case of technology failing.

This plan was made as flexible as possible to meet the resource package and the needs for all school districts. Our office will offer it to districts in a whole form and will then be there to come along side them to help them use the tool and plan the exercises.

At this time both Chair Horman, and Board Member Hartog thanked Analyst Bliesner for his hard work and dedication to this project. Board Member Myer also thanked the office for their hard work and that this would be a huge help to the superintendents throughout the state as they devise plans for after an incident. She then spoke of her experience following an event and reiterated as Analyst Bliesner stated reunification was the biggest obstacle and had caused the most distress.

Chair Horman, then addressed the team and thanked them for all of their hard work and dedication as this is just one of the many projects the team has done in order to offer support to schools in uncertain times. She acknowledged Superintendent Luna, Program Manger Munger, Analyst Bliesner, and retired Program Manager Armes for being here from the very beginning in the development of this office. That they identified a need and developed a Threat Assessment is the best practice in avoiding school violence. Idaho is ahead of the curve in terms of assessments and now moving into reunification and so many other issues. This office has the right people in place for continued success.

Vice Chair, Freeman asked Program Manager Munger if a session was planned with the Idaho Association of School Administrators’ conference in the fall. Program Manager Munger confirmed it would be presented at this event as well as the ISBA. He stated that the office also participated in the

Idaho Prevention Conference and presented on this a few months ago. The plan will also be presented at the Superintendents Association Meeting and in other school settings. Program Munger took this opportunity to let the Board know that we are also available to speak if they ever have an occasion they need us. Analyst Bliesner invited board members and legislators to come along on Threat Assessments. Vice Chair Freeman encouraged the Board to do so.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

MOTION: Board Member Freeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Board Member Lori Den-Hartog, seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Voice motion was taken

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| • Representative Wendy Horman, Chair | AYE | Dr. Eric Studebaker | AYE |
| • Matt Freeman, Vice Chair | AYE | Terry Cochran | AYE |
| • Senator Lori Den Hartog | AYE | Teressa Luna | AYE |
| • Alexandria Phillips | AYE | Suzanne Kloepfer | AYE |
| • Dr. Becky Myer | AYE | | |

10:46 A.M ADJOURN

WENDY HORMAN, CHAIR
IDAHO SCHOOL SAFETY AND
SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

MATT FREEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DATE

DATE