

MINUTES of ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SAFETY MEETING

Meeting date: March 14, 2018

Meeting began at noon. Dr. Meg opened the meeting by taking questions from those in attendance.

A parent asked if a violent student is creating an incident, when are the parents in that room being notified.

Matt Hill responded that it is case by case and the details of situation matter as to notification.

A parent asked if it was mandatory that the school notify parents if there is a classroom evacuation.

Matt Hill responded no.

A parent asked if that can be changed as parents want to know when this occurs.

Discussion ensued about communication coming home from children is alarming especially when it involves a classroom being evacuated and parents request notification when this happens.

Matt Hill responded that he and his team can revisit protocols and what is appropriate. However it is not appropriate to notify all classes if the situation is only affecting one class.

A parent asked how many time does a classroom disruption have to occur for the rest of the kids to not be disrupted. Kids are now thinking the behavior is normal and violence shouldn't be normalized in the classroom.

One parent commented that she has pulled her child out of school until the matter is resolved.

Matt Hill responded that violence is not being normalized and that the school and District are working on the situation. That administration wants to protect all children and, while he knows it has been disruptive, they are handling the issue.

A parent commented that kids are normalizing the behavior.

Matt Hill responded that he realizes it is traumatic and they are working through it. That they are working for the good of the majority as well as each child. It is situational and there are protocols that must be followed. He stated that he cannot discuss the specifics of the child at the school but essentially there is a three tiered protocol in general and it is in process.

A parent asked what the specific protocol is.

Matt Hill emphasized that this is not a subjective situation and it is not black and white. That he and his staff will use the framework as a guideline in this situation.

A parent asked why the child was moved from one classroom to another as it seems like it was just shifting the problem.

Matt Hill responded that it was not just moving the child around. That action was just one small part of it.

A parent wanted to know if an evacuation happens again, can the parents be told about it as they want to know what is happening in the classroom. As well, they would like a follow up on all the actions taken.

A parent asked if this child is being searched for weapons each day.

Dr. Meg responded that Roosevelt is a CLC school (Collaborative Learning Center) so there are many levels of aid for these situations. Based on her training for this environment, clearing the classroom is appropriate.

A parent asked for an answer to the specific question of whether or not the child is being searched for weapons each day before entering the school.

Dr. Meg said yes.

A parent asked about scissors in the classroom as an example of a specific weapon that is accessible.

Dr. Meg stated that there is a one on one aid in place to monitor the child at all times.

A parent pointed out that that was not the case last week.

Dr. Meg acknowledged the fluid situation and that we cannot go back in time and re-do it.

Matt Hill commented that they cannot ever give absolute guarantees but that they are taking steps to resolve the situation.

A parent commented that she had to come to school to pick up her child today because she was scared after yet another incident happened in the classroom.

Matt Hill reiterated that they are working through the situation.

A parent asked if they should fear for their own child's safety since the child creating the issues cannot be physically touched by anyone.

Dr. Meg discussed the "blocking" tactic that she and staff have been trained on and emphasized that the child's aid has also been train on blocking tactics.

A parent asked if there is a limit to the number of times various incidents can occur before removal and asked if a small group setting is a better environment for this child.

Matt Hill said that they are working through it and re-emphasized that he or the staff cannot discuss the specifics of the situation.

At this point many parents said their children were traumatized by the events occurring in this classroom and various examples were given.

The conversation went back to the subject of weapons. Parents are concerned that no one can guarantee that no weapons or objects as weapons will be available to this child.

Matt Hill commented that the conversation is getting into very specifics of this child and he is not able to do that. He emphasized that he is truly hearing everyone's concerns and it is important to him.

A parent asked if they can keep their kids home until this matter is resolved.

Matt Hill responded that as the Superintendent, he cannot tell anyone to keep their children at home. Yes, he is a parent but he is not speaking as a parent in his role. He reiterated that he is speaking as candidly as he can today.

There was a discussion on the security system (Raptor) as well as a change in the architecture (walls, doors, etc.). Matt Hill stated that the cost is \$100,000 just for plans on what might be done. He said that if a parcel

tax goes through then perhaps that money would go to this cause. Raptor is a “speed bump”; it flags Megan’s Law violators and restraining orders (the ones that are known) but that is it.

A member of the parent formed safety committee stated that a safety audit was done a while ago and the District responded with “we are working on things” but no action has occurred.

Matt Hill said that he brought his team to the meeting today and introduced them (to include Kurt Hauffe and Stephanie Pulcifer of facilities, Johanna Chase, the Director of Wellness and Peter Knapik, Director of Elementary Education.)

A parent member of the safety committee said there was frustration on a backfill regarding safety. That they keep presenting issues but there is no response. He gave some background and details. He is requesting procedural oversight.

A parent asked if the classrooms have a panic button of some sort.

Dr. Meg said that dialing “o” connects the classroom to the office or a 5 digit number can be punched in to initiate an all-call or lockdown, if necessary.

Johanna Chase, Director of Wellness, stated that she has extensive training in many areas of safety including active shooter training. She gave some details and offered the member of the parent formed safety committee her information to discuss.

A parent member of the safety committee gave more examples of teachers not having keys to lock doors when needed (specifically the Around the Bell after school program), etc. He emphasized that there are safety deficits all over the campus.

Matt Hill reiterated that they are continuing to work on all of this.

A parent asked Matt Hill what the biggest challenges are.

Matt Hill responded that time and resources are always challenges.

A short discussion on radio training took place.

A parent member of the safety committee stated that Matt Hill needs a better team.

Matt Hill replied that the team in place today is an A+ team.

A parent asked what the repercussions would be if parents made the needed safety updates themselves.

Matt Hill advised that that not occur in that manner and emphasized that it is better to send him a list and that he will get it done the right way.

A parent member of the safety committee said that he wasn’t sure that we are all “working together” and asked if there is a way to check and agree on the priority lists.

A parent asked Matt Hill if there was urgency on this.

Matt Hill replied that they are prepared and things are in place but also stated that with events occurring in our society today that it is fact that we will need to continually evolve on this subject.

A parent stated that with as many different opinions as there are people in the room, we all need to figure out how to unify to help with what is most important.

Matt Hill said that as the District works on getting what is needed, that if the school and its community want to fund things more quickly, that is something the school can do.

A parent pointed out that with so many different opinions everyone has to realize that the time it takes to make decisions will be longer.

Matt Hill interjected that there are also major budget issues coming in the very near future and that is why such things as a parcel tax are being presented.

A parent member of the safety committee asked about Measure S.

Matt Hill responded that taxes need to be put in place. Such things as taxing guns and ammunition and having those funds go toward mental health would be beneficial but that needs to be done by writing and communicating with government officials.

A parent said that the parent community would like to see a clear plan as well as strong leadership to help us band together and communicate to us how we can help. What are the time lines? What do you want us to do? We want to play a part.

Dr. Meg stated that she and the District have taken action here at Roosevelt but details cannot be shared. She has implemented a plan and, in essence, there are 60 days to do so. Without providing more details, which she cannot do, that should give everyone a general sense of the time line.

Johanna Chase talked briefly about impact on a Federal level, mandates without funding, etc.

A parent asked about the viability of money being run through the Boosters for safety projects.

Matt Hill talked briefly about on campus trainings of reverse lockdown drill and active shooter training.

A parent member of the safety committee gave more general information.

There was a discussion on the police department procedures and staffing, familiarization with the campuses, talk about "silent communication" methods, etc.

A parent re-stated that there is still a child on our campus who is an issue and is everything we have been talking about in this meeting as what we want to prevent.

Matt Hill said that we have a 60 day assessment as Dr. Meg already mentioned.

The parent then said that this has been going on for 7 months, since the beginning of this school year, and asked where was the ball dropped? That 7 month vs. 60 days from now is a big gap in action. Also, that she was told that if her child isn't at school then she is truant and eventually will involve police interaction yet her child's classroom is not safe. She repeated that she will be keeping her child at home because she isn't safe, yet will be "getting in trouble".

All agreed that both the current issues at our school and the more global issues across our country are both important and this meeting has two separate but related important topics.

Johanna Chase and her specific team have monthly meetings, which are posted on the District website for all to keep access.

A parent asked how to get the word out about those meetings.

Matt Hill said that in addition to the announcement of those meetings on the website, there are also notes from past meetings and those can be pushed out to the Roosevelt community.

A parent asked how we expedite the current process at Roosevelt.

Matt Hill said that there are mandated laws that the District must follow. Other items will be documented and shared. He reaffirmed that he is **not** dismissing the situation at this school but he cannot speak as candidly as he usually does because of the mandated laws he is bound to. He stated there is more to the situation than is known among those in this room.

A parent said that as a parent group that they have no choice but to make assumptions because they have nothing to go on and no communication given. That the parents are simply asking for a general process and updates.

Another parent stated they would just like general and consistent updates vs. having to hear information from their children or having to discuss with other parents afterschool about the state of events and who has heard what as it is just hearsay. They just want to know that their children are OK.

A parent asked Matt Hill if it were *his* child in that classroom if he would be OK with sending his child to school.

Matt Hill said that he understands the frustration. He also said that he probably cannot do anything differently than he is already doing. He emphasized that he wants to be clear that he would absolutely be OK with his own kids being in the classroom in question.

A parent asked Matt Hill if he ever worried about getting sued.

Matt Hill responded that his days are filled with decision making and that anyone can file a lawsuit on any subject and that he cannot spend his time worrying about that. However, he and his staff do what they do because they passionate about and care about the education and well-being of the children in this district and when you do your work with integrity, passion, care and within the laws and structure of the ed code then you don't worry about getting sued.

The meeting was wrapped up at approximately 1:40 p.m.