

GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE

Physical Infrastructure Coordination Workgroup

JUNE 1, 2018 9:00 AM

Meeting Locations:

Office	Address	City	Meeting Room
Department of Education	9890 S. Maryland Pkwy	Las Vegas	Bighorn Conference Room
Department of Education	700 E. Fifth St.	Carson City	Battle Born Conference Room

SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

(Video Conferenced)

Agenda Item I: Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance

- Chair Gamboa called the Meeting to Order at 9:02 AM
- Member Canavero led the Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item II: Roll Call

Task Force Members in Attendance:

In Las Vegas:

- Mike Barton – CCSD CAO
- Ashley Macias - Student Representative, State Board of Education
- Margarita Gamboa, Vice Chair – Principal, Sunrise Acres Elementary School
- James Ketsaa - Law Enforcement

In Carson City:

- David Jensen - Humboldt County Superintendent
- Traci Davis - Washoe County Superintendent
- Jason Trevino - Law Enforcement
- Steve Canavero - State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City

- Amber Reid
- Sylvia Verdugo, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent of Public Instruction

LEGAL STAFF PRESENT:

In Carson City

- Greg Ott, Senior Deputy Attorney General

AUDIENCE IN ATTENDANCE:

In Las Vegas:

- Rod Swanson
- Gonzalo Cordovia

Carson City:

- Caleb Cage
- Andrew Clinger

Video Conference:

- Tod Schneider

Agenda Item III: Public Comment #1

- Chair Gamboa asked for Public Comment.
 - There was none in Las Vegas and Carson City.

Agenda Item IV: Overview of Timeline and Scope of Workgroup

- Chair Gamboa reminded task force members of the need to develop and present short and long-term recommendations at the July 13th meeting of the Task Force.

Agenda Item V: Presentation and discussion regarding school safety and infrastructure including the school building.

- Chair Gamboa introduced Tod Schneider to discuss building design and retrofitting.
 - Mr. Schneider stated that his presentation would be a quick overview of key lessons he has learned. It is important to ask schools what they actually need rather than imposing rules or regulations. Without local input, rules will be ignored. This entails talking about all aspects of school infrastructure and preexisting conditions (both physical and behavioral). Those issues need to be acknowledged and talked about with both administrators and custodial staff. It is important to resist simplistic solutions. Every school is different. Opening lines of communication is very important so that students see something and say something and have a good chain of communication up the ladder. Schools should be empowered to be a part of the solution, and they need to be given the chance to weigh in on the solutions so that they are invested. Site specific measures are important, particularly since schools are places of learning and measures should not be imposed that restrict that function. Crime prevention through environmental design is a key tool here when creating safe, healthy, and positive schools. Mr. Schneider referred taskforce members to his website/blog for more information. A top 10 list of problems should be created and then devices or solutions can be specifically directed toward problems. Technological solutions can be useful, but can create unintended consequences or not solve core problems. Mr. Schneider said that it is important to “get real” about what students and staff will actually do. Checking in with staff and students can help solve some of these issues. Metal detectors are often thought of as an easy solution, but they also create predictable choke points at set times of the day, and they tie up multiple staff members at key times of the day. Portable wands used for random checks are a potential solution. Mr. Schneider also pointed out that many horrific school shootings do not take place at “bad” schools where there are disciplinary issues. All schools need to be protected. Areas between home and school are often ignored, but it is one of the main areas where students are killed (particularly because of traffic issues). The main entry is the second main location on which to focus. Windows, lockdown buttons, a second level entrance, and trained personnel are ideal.
 - Chair Gamboa asked for questions.
 - There were none.
 - Mr. Schneider asked if there were any infrastructure points that individuals about which members would like to know more.
 - Member Canavero asked if there are any instruments that would help assess or define the problems that a school building is attempting to solve in order to be safe. Mr. Schneider stated that addressing specific scenarios and walking through

the actions of individuals involved in previous shootings is one way to access buildings.

- Chair Gamboa introduced Member Jensen to discuss infrastructure from the perspective of superintendents.
 - Member Jensen stated that his goal at the beginning of his presentation is to address the fifteen rural school districts. Member Jensen addressed the origins of the POOL/PACT that the rural school districts are a part of. Clark and Washoe are the main exceptions. An advantage to being a part of the POOL/PACT is hazard and vulnerability training that is offered for free, and an assessment was done and completed in 2015. POOL has been able to develop short and long-term safety objectives for individual districts, and it provides some funding. These assessments are required by Nevada. Member Jensen shared some sample documents from Humboldt County's plans.
 - Member Davis shared details about Washoe County's efforts to prepare via the Safe and Healthy Schools Committee. Washoe Schools received a wide variety of issues that needed to be fixed, which they did rank in order to meet immediate needs (displayed on the presentation). It was organized by specific needs and the percentage of schools that needed those issues to be fixed.
 - Member Jensen stated that assessments in all districts have been done, but the task group needs to discuss funding. Member Jensen repeated Mr. Schneider's reminder that every district and school is different. He urged that districts be allowed to make their own decisions with any money they provided. The superintendents identified 6 main issues (Single Point of Entry, Security Cameras, Door Locks/Locking mechanisms, Perimeter Fencing, Guest Screening and Staff Badging, and Intercom/Bell Systems). Single Point of Entry can be quite expensive depending on the scale.
 - Member Canavero asked how Humboldt County funded their improvements, and Member Jensen answered.
 - Member Jensen resumed by discussing security cameras. They can be useful, but need to be high quality and monitored. Cost has gone down, but schools do not have the capacity to monitor them 24/7. Door Locks/Locking Mechanisms come in a variety of types and costs.
 - Member Davis and Member Trevino stated that Washoe County has installed door locks at a very high cost.
 - Member Trevino stated that sometimes door locks can be problematic in day-to-day environments.
 - Member Jensen stated that Perimeter Fencing can be quite expensive and cause problems for entry/exit from the building/complex. Guest Screening and Staff Badging are important since schools can be lax. Clark and Washoe have instituted plans that allow identification of visitors, and badges can be problematic as well. Intercom/Bell Systems are valuable, but often a rural issue due to the age of facilities.
 - Member Barton stated that Clark County prioritizes projects in a quantitative fashion. They are in the process of adding a vulnerability/safety component to their existing process. Cameras need to be updated as well, and they are discussing programs. Open plan schools need to be modified to single point entries.
 - Member Davis stated that modifying high schools to single point entry is one of the main issues facing Washoe County.
 - Chair Gamboa asked if vulnerability assessments needed to be done in schools as a short-term goal.
 - Member Davis stated that many schools have had it done, but it might have been done in the past and need to be updated. Member Jensen stated that communication with administrators is also an issue since local administrators might not be aware that the plans have been done.

- Member Trevino stated that turnover of principals is also an issue since new principals may not be aware that assessments have been done.
- Member Davis stated that this information needed to be included in transfer plans and training of new administrators.
- Member Canavero asked about specific recommendations and the need to request funds for building programs. He asked how to develop a system that would allow the pot of money set aside for school improvements to be apportioned equally to needy schools.
 - Member Davis stated that Washoe is a bit further along compared to other districts, but they might still need money for more advanced needs. Menu options would certainly be valuable.
 - Member Jensen stated that small districts have no bonding or capital capacity and thus might need some additional funds. This might need to be discussed with the districts as a whole. Member Davis stated that this is important since it is something that cannot be done based on the number of pupils.
 - Chair Gamboa stated that these issues need to be addressed in more detail at subsequent meetings..

Agenda Item VI: Presentation and discussion regarding the role of emergency management plans and drills.

- Chair Gamboa introduced Caleb Cage.
 - Director Cage pledged to keep his comments brief. The role of his department is to coordinate resources prior to emergencies. Preparedness covers a variety of tools in the Emergency Management Cycle. Equipping and planning, identifying resources, making sure everyone on the same page are all important elements of being prepared for an emergency, but the most important . Planning, training, and exercise are most important. Plans must be developed, individuals should train against the plan, and exercises need to be developed to test plans and training so that plans can be improved in the future. There is a substantial difference in resources across the state. The funding the group is discussing could help groups coordinate and add resources to smaller districts. Response plans should be exercised and developed and need to include recovery plans.
- Chair Gamboa asked member Davis and Member Jensen if they had any additional comments from the perspective of superintendents.
 - Member Davis provided several specific examples of Emergency Operation Plans developed by Washoe County. Evolving practices are very important in order to ensure that fire drills or other activities do not create more danger for students. Accountability is important since students and staff do not necessarily follow the rules. Parent Engagement is critical as well, and Washoe County is developing handouts and videos to educate parents.
- Chair Gamboa asked for other comments.
 - Member Barton stated that collaboration was an important element of preparing schools. After action reviews are very important to ensure that everyone is kept informed and up to date.
- Chair Gamboa asked for questions.
 - Member Trevino stated that Washoe County has created emergency guides for administrators, teachers, and substitutes from the full EOP so that all individuals have what they need to know close to hand. This provides more information than a flowchart but is still a concise summary of the larger document.
 - Member Ketsaa asked about Washoe’s new draft policy for fire alarms. Member Davis responded, and Member Ketsaa asked for a copy of the policy.

- Member Trevino stated that the fire department was receptive when told that Washoe County Schools were simply asking teachers and students to evaluate the situation before evacuating the building.
- Member Canavero stated that what struck him was the necessity for recovery plans and behavioral health disaster plans. Districts might want to be collaborate in sharing these plans and trained individuals, but there need to be more formal sharing agreements for staff. Accountability for not turning in emergency plans is quite important as well. Practice of emergency plans needs to be done in collaboration with local law enforcement and other groups. Should there be a requirement for local engagement in the active planning and drilling?
 - Member Trevino stated that Washoe has a strong relationship with local law enforcement and emergency responders. Outreach is important, but requirements might be necessary if there are unwilling partners.
 - Member Davis stated that while local districts might pay costs for travel and stay for employees, they typically treat traveling staff as working a normal work day and they get paid as if they worked a normal workday. Member Canavero responded by asking if more formal agreements would be useful.
 - Chair Gamboa suggested that having a formal agreement would potentially be quite useful if staff need to be shared among schools.
 - Member Canavero pointed particularly to Charter Schools needing more formal agreements.
 - Mr. Cage praised the work of Washoe County in developing emergency guides and stated that there are laws in place that cover reimbursement.

Agenda Item VII: Presentation and discussion regarding the role of law enforcement, including school resource officers, and best practices for the coordinated support of schools.

- Chair Gamboa introduces Rod Sawnsen, Chief of Investigations for the Attorney General's Office.
 - Mr. Swanson stated that a special summit on School Safety was held on March 14th. Public, private, and charter schools were represented. One of the topics that received attention was School Resource Officers (SROs) and increasing their numbers. Faster law enforcement responses minimize casualties. The cost to put a school resource officer in every school would be quite high. They need to be sworn Nevada Peace Officers, and they need to be able to mitigate threats before lives are lost. SROs are the eyes and ears for first responders and have access to all parts of a building. This is key for first responders. None of the discussions at the summit involved arming teachers or employees, just having SROs (from 1-3). Placement is important when considering prioritizing resources. Rural areas are at a disadvantage when it comes to sharing personnel since they very far apart; schools with a history of discipline problems might need to come first as well. There needs to be a high level of communication between schools and law enforcement, particularly in rural areas. That includes training together to increase engagement. Infrastructure is an important component, but it can be more cost effective to simply start from scratch with new schools. This is all not something that can be fixed overnight.
- Chair Gamboa asked for questions.
 - Member Canavero asked if there was a report from the summit that the task force could look at. Mr. Sawnsen stated that there was one that would be released shortly.
 - Chair Gamboa asked if the report would provide justification for recommending SROs. Mr. Swanson responded that it would. Chair Gamboa stated that it was important that recommendations not just be based on discipline. Member Canavero agreed.
 - Member Canavero asked about the sharing of information between law enforcement and school administrators and how to ensure that the need for clear communication is being met. Mr. Swanson stated that meetings between SROs

and administrators need to occur on a day-to-day basis. An open line of communication is constantly necessary and could include other school employees. Member Canavero mentioned recommendations from Texas that encourage local law enforcement should come to schools on their breaks in order to create connections with students and schools.

- Member Davis stated that a more organic structure would be ideal. It is better to have officers who are actually a part of the schools. It is necessary to make sure that SROs are there for social and emotional learning, not just discipline.
- Member Canavero stated that his question/suggestion was mainly aimed at schools that did not have SROs attached to them.
- Member Trevino stated that they welcomed law enforcement parking in schools that did not have dedicated police officers. However, police do not have the time to spend at schools on that fashion. SROs or School Police Departments are the main solution since law enforcement is already stretched beyond capacity.
- Member Davis stated that the consistency of seeing the same individual is important as well.
- Member Jensen stated that they have one SRO for 11 schools. They are building relationships with law enforcement partners to increase their presence on campuses.
- Member Ketsaa echoed the already expressed sentiments and states that Clark County has officers embedded with a variety of law enforcement agencies.
- Chair Gamboa asked about the exact differences between SROs and School Police and the differences in funding streams.
 - Member Barton stated that Federal Standards exist of an SRO, and Clark County school police fall under that umbrella. However, Nevada Law AB127 provides a definition of SROs that would not include the Clark and Washoe County School Police. This creates a problem in that state grants for SROs might not be available for Clark/Washoe Schools.
 - Member Canavero stated that this would be a good issue to address.
 - Member Trevino stated that the main definition was that a school police officer was a police officer employed by a school. An SRO is an individual employed by an outside agency (a sheriff's department for example). SROs might not have access to student records but have access to other resources. A police department might not be necessary for smaller school districts, but it would not make sense for Clark or Washoe to go to an SRO model.
- Chair Gamboa stated that having strong communication with local law enforcement would be ideal since it would allow law enforcement to communicate about student mental health and wellbeing with schools.
 - Member Ketsaa stated that there is a gap between jurisdiction for often reasons as basic as different work schedules or lack of time.
 - Member Jensen mentioned "Handle with Care" that was developed in Douglas County. When law enforcement identifies a child, that information is shared with school police or SROs. While the information is not specific, it does allow law enforcement to alert schools.
 - Member Davis stated that Washoe is attempting to pilot similar programs.
 - Chair Gamboa stated that increased communication is certainly important.
 - Mr. Swanson asked about SafeVoice Nevada.
 - Member Barton stated that it is something which administrators will have to get used to, but it will be very useful tool.

- Chair Gamboa echoed those comments.
- Member Barton stated that there could be more protections for police. There have been significant cuts since educational spending and safety spending always has to be balanced. School police officers work in their communities to ensure the safety of students and are extremely valuable.
 - Member Trevino stated that Washoe County is in the same issue. They are unable to hire more police despite the growth of Washoe County's population. Police are a support function and tend to become a priority after educational spending. Member Trevino suggested having categorical funding for the safety side that could not be spent on other educational needs.

Agenda Item VIII: Presentation and Discussion regarding Short-Term and Long-Term recommendation Guidelines.

- Chair Gamboa introduced Andrew Clinger, advisor to Governor Sandoval.
- Mr. Clinger went over the August 1st and November 30th deadlines. The Governor will get 110 bill draft requests, some of which are reserved for the task force. August 1st is the deadline for submitting bill draft requests to the governor's office. Budget requests are also needed by that date. August 1st ensures that materials can be submitted for the next legislative session. In the short term, it can be problematic to fund immediate actions, but creative solutions can be found if necessary. The Governor can issue emergency regulations, executive orders, or policy statements. Long-term requests should be addressed via Budget Requests and Bill Draft Requests; short-term requests revolve around regulatory issues.
 - Chair Gamboa asked about long-term requests. Mr. Clinger mentioned long-term funding requests and state law changes.
 - Member Jensen stated that it is important to ensure that asks are realistic. He asked Mr. Clinger for guidance. Mr. Clinger mentioned that \$40-45 million goes into the rainy day fund. Some of that could be dedicated to school safety. He encouraged the Task Force to think about how the money was distributed (formulas or grants).
 - Member Ketsaa asked about NRS changes, and Chair Gamboa suggested that it would go on future agendas.
 - Mr. Clinger stated that recommendations received on August 1st can be conceptual. The details can be worked out by the middle of November.

Agenda Item IX: Next Meeting, Future Meeting Agenda Items, and Action Items

- Chair Gamboa stated that the next meeting will be June 18th and will include SafeVoice and recommendations. Please bring short and long-term recommendations and complete the template provided by Sylvia.

Agenda Item X: Public Comment #2

- Chair Gamboa asked for public comment.
 - In Las Vegas
 - Mr. Gonzalo Cordovia from US Office of Homeland Security stated that the Department of Homeland Security has a school safety program. They have conducted vulnerability assessments of some schools in Clark County. His office is willing to provide vulnerability assessments of select schools (not everyone), but they would be of no cost to districts.
 - Carson City-none

Agenda Item XII: Adjourn

- Chair Gamboa adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.