

Work Session
Tuesday, February 21, 2023 6:00 PM

Dr. Matthew Prophet Education Center - Board
Auditorium
501 N. Dixon St
Portland, OR 97227

Agenda

1. School Safety and Security



FORWARD
TOGETHER

Physical Safety and Security in School

School Board Work Session

February 21, 2023

Purpose and Focus

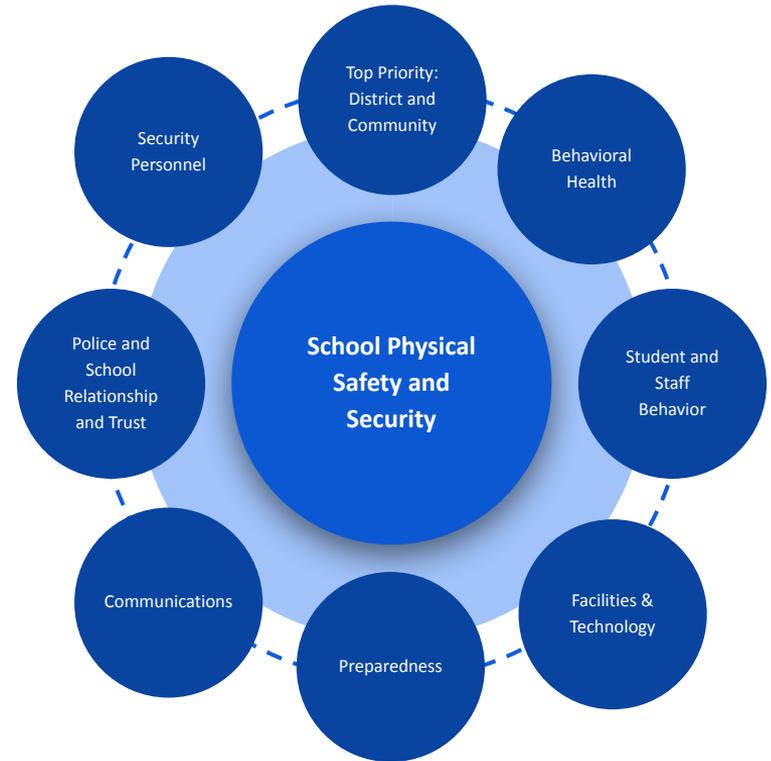
Through a **collaborative approach**, we expect to:

Bring a **holistic approach** to physical safety and school security.

Embrace a **shared responsibility** for the physical, emotional and psychological safety of all students and school staff.

Align our security and safety staff, procedures, policies and systems to our vision and core values, **eliminating disparities** negatively impacting students of color.

Update and refine our protocols and initiatives to address **emerging safety and security concerns**.



Foundational Elements of School Safety

School districts take everyday actions to address the foundational elements of school safety:

- School Climate and Culture
- Designated Staff
- Building Infrastructure and Technology
- Emergency Operations, Recovery Plans
- Threat Assessment
- Reporting Systems
- Regular Training
- Exercises and Drills

SchoolSafety.gov

Public-facing vehicle of the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Evidence-Based Practices, an interagency effort among the US Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and Justice.

Foundations of PPS School Safety

Designated Staff
School Climate and Culture

Here at PPS, we take similar actions to address school safety:

Security & Emergency Management Services: The Security & Emergency Management Services Department partners with schools to support safe and secure learning environments through the following programs: Emergency Management, Physical Security, Campus Safety Associates, Fingerprinting, Background Checks, and Badging, Alarm Code Management and Security Consultation.

Campus Safety Associates: All high school campuses, six of our middle school campuses and two of our K-8 campuses have an assigned campus safety associate(s). Campus safety associates in partnership with the school administration help maintain safe learning environments through patrolling campuses, building relationships with students, intervening and de-escalating unsafe situations on or near campuses.

Youth Violence Prevention Managers: Our youth violence prevention managers provide coordinated support to schools, students and families who have been impacted by violence. They work with the city, county and community partners to connect our at risk youth to early intervention services.

Mental Health, Social Workers, Counselors: A team of professionals works with schools daily to provide resources, intervention, and other supports to wrap around students who may be experiencing bullying, social and emotional distress, or suicidal ideation to ensure these students receive proper care and support.

Foundations of PPS School Safety

Here at PPS, we take similar actions to address school safety:

Secured School Buildings: All our schools have access-controlled doors and are fully secured during the regular school day. Most of our schools have single points of entry and all visitors must use a buzzer to request access after school has started. All visitors must check in at the main office, provide valid identification, and are screened through [Raptor](#), our visitor and volunteer management system.

Surveillance Systems: All schools have surveillance cameras. The number of cameras will vary based on the school.

Internal Communication System: All schools are equipped to broadcast emergency messages throughout the campus, notifying students and staff to take emergency action. The system can be activated through every phone in every building and when activated immediately notifies Security Services staff.

2020 Bond Security Projects (\$25.9 Million)

Building Infrastructure and Technology

Here at PPS, we take similar actions to address school safety:

New Locking Hardware to Classroom Doors

Roughly 81 sites, and a total of over 2,900 door locations, will receive new door hardware that can be secured by hand from the inside of a classroom. The work at all schools is expected to be substantially complete by end of **summer 2023**.

Work is well underway across the district. Installation of district compliant hardware (lever handles that meet ADA and lockable from the interior side of the door) began at the end of November 2022. **So far, classroom door hardware has been replaced at 14 sites and is being added at two to three new sites per week on average.** Common area work is expected to begin in mid-February.

Intrusion Alarm Systems

Funds will be used to upgrade or replace intrusion alarm systems to allow for remote control and integration with other building security systems.

Work is underway now and is already completed in over a third of PPS schools. The intrusion alarm program is estimated to be completed at all schools by the end of 2024.

Additional Security Cameras

Design work for security camera installation is underway now. Installation of the first set of schools is set to start in May 2023. Work is estimated to be completed at all schools by the end of 2024.

In response to recent incidents at Jefferson High School, several new cameras were added to the exterior of the school in the first weeks of 2023.

Foundations of PPS School Safety

Here at PPS, we take similar actions to address school safety:

Emergency Operations: The Districts Emergency Operations Plan(EOP) provides a comprehensive framework for District-wide emergency management. This includes roles of the District level Incident Management Team an emergency operations center plan, reunification plans and recovery resources. Each school site has an individualize school emergency response plan that identifies a school emergency team and primary and secondary evacuation sites.

Behavioral Safety Assessment System: This provides tools and resources to identify and respond to situations that may pose a safety risk.

Emergency Drills and Training: Our schools conduct mandatory emergency drills throughout the school year, including: monthly fire drills, two earthquake drills, two lockdown drills, one secure the perimeter drill, one team response drill. Whenever possible, schools will conduct drills in partnership with our first responders, police and fire.

- All staff are required annually to take the PPS Prepared Training & attend their school start-up site training
- Students are trained through drills and by school staff reviewing the school emergency response plan in a trauma informed and age appropriate way
- The District Incident Management Team participates in quarterly tabletop exercises facilitate by a member of ODE's Emergency Management Team.

SafeOregon: This is a statewide school safety tip line to report potential threats against students, school employees, or school property. Every tip is followed-up on by school/and or district staff.

Questions and Comments

Focus Groups

What: Gather insight from students, principals, staff, educators, and families on what they believe we must do more or differently to improve neighborhood safety and campus security.

Why: This information is meant to inform, spark progress and help confront the challenges of Portland's rampant gun violence impacting our school communities.

Who:

- PPS School-Based Staff
 - High School Principals
 - Middle and High School Campus Safety Associates
 - High School School Administrative Assistants
 - Teachers (Pending)
- High School students - All Schools
- Families (Pending)

Focus Group Questions

- Do you feel safe at school? Why or why not?
- How has gun violence impacted you and your school community?
- What makes you feel safe at school? What makes you not feel safe at school?
- What changes could the district make to make your school feel safer?
- What should or could be the purpose of a relationship with law enforcement?

Emerging Themes from Engagement

Feelings, Belief and Experiences

Most students expressed neutrality or being physically safe at school.

Recent shooting incidents have caused concerns in some students, especially students of color. For example, one student expressed, “[Recent] shootings has impacted how I think, and act...I don’t walk home or to school...I don’t go out anymore...It’s change my social peace.”

Lack of communication and knowledge of situations (in real-time) was a concern that was a priority for many students. “Communication is key and there is a lack of it.”

After incidents of violence take place (like Franklin Basketball Tournament), student expressed not feeling like PPS and schools properly addressed impact.

Change Ideas

Many students expressed wanting deeper knowledge of safety and emergency protocols and procedures, including personal safety (e.g. Title IX resources)

Students expressed wanting more cameras and a broad understanding that cameras are being monitored.

The most important expression of safety was having trusted adults who treat students with respect and care.

Some students expressed wanting protocols reinforced and created (i.e. doors locked behind, student IDs)

Role of Law Enforcement

Student expressed apprehension of having law enforcement personnel (who carry guns), on campus, in hallways. Many expressed a desire to see them, and know that they are in the community and neighborhood patrolling.

Some students expressed having a positive relationship with law enforcement, but understanding of negative experiences with law enforcement by people of color.

Many student expressed a desire to (re)build positive relationships with law enforcement personnel and understood the important role they play in physical safety, especially in an emergency.

Emerging Themes from Engagement

Feelings and Belief

All staff groups expressed that their communities have been impacted by recent gun violence. There is a lot of fear and uncertainty.

All staff groups shared concerns that the community violence is impacting teaching and learning and positive school climate.

Some staff expressed unease and pressure for level of safety responsibility given community violence.

Change Ideas

Principals expressed wanting clearer and direct channels of communication with local agencies supporting youth.

Staff expressed a desire for standardization, enforcement and fidelity to protocols and procedures.

Clearer understanding of safety plans and protocols.

Staff shared a strong desire to provide security and safety support for after-school activities, many open to community.

Role of Law Enforcement

All principals and campus safety staff who attended focus groups expressed strong interest in having a stronger relationship with law enforcement.

All expressed the value and positive relationships with SROs—a specially trained officer with knowledge of community issues.

Emerging Considerations

Juvenile Services

- Strengthening information-sharing with the Multnomah County Juvenile Service Division.

Mindsets and Shared Accountability

- Shared accountability to implement and follow current policies and procedures.
- Support and model safety culture and mindset.

Safety Operations

- Review campus safety staffing model (i.e. after-school functions, all middle schools, substitute pool)
- Event Safety Support: Gun Detection
- Strengthen communications across all aspects of our organization
- Strengthen school-based policies (example: 6-12 Student ID Badge Requirement)
- Reviewing and refine drills and trainings through a trauma-informed way

Law Enforcement

- Rebuild and (re)consider a student-focused, trauma-informed relationship with law enforcement.

Emerging Next Steps

The Superintendent, the Board of Education, and senior staff will continue to host focus groups with students, educators and families to gather further insight on safety recommendations. We will participate in the upcoming District Student Council Summit on Friday, February 25.

The Superintendent's Safety Task Force will collaborate to provide a set of recommendations to improve safety and security at PPS schools.

A set of recommendations to Superintendent Guerrero and the PPS Board of Education on May 4 with a work session on May 9.

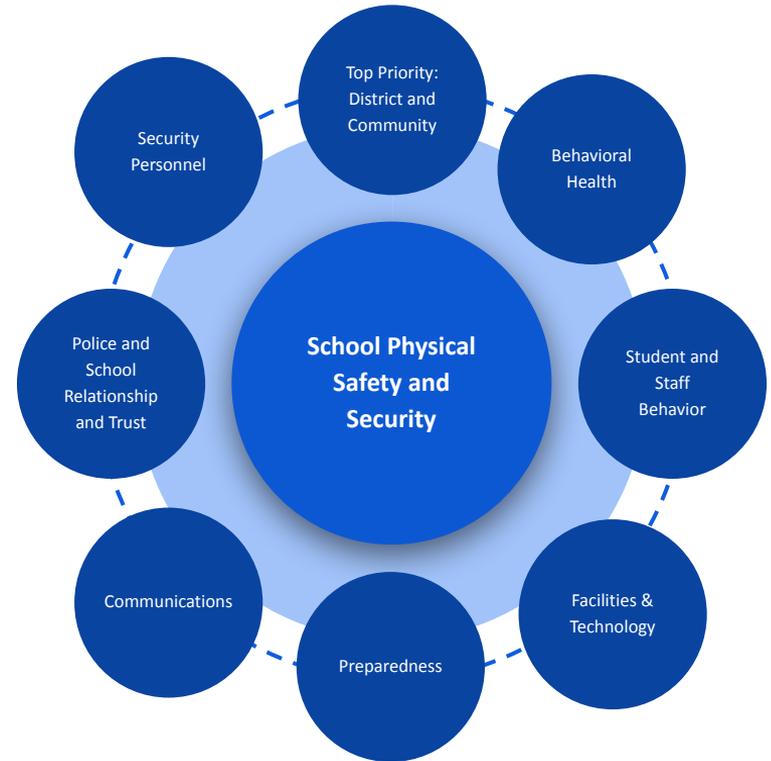
The Intergovernmental Committee of the School Board is actively drafting a Portland Children's Agenda.

Discussion

What of what you heard resonates? What are your concerns? What further questions or areas of exploration on safety and security should we look into?

What considerations could the district address to make our school communities safer?

Should PPS strengthen its relationship with law enforcement? To what extent and under what limitations, if any?



Thank you.