

**School Security and Standards Task Force
Meeting Summary**

Springfield - Illinois State Board of Education
Alzina Building
100 North First Street
Videoconference Room, 3rd Floor
Springfield, Illinois

Chicago - Illinois State Board of Education
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph
Videoconference Room, 14th Floor
Chicago, Illinois

Monday, August 24, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Amanda Elliott called the meeting to order shortly after 9:00 a.m. on August 24, 2015. A quorum was present.

Members Present

Robert Bernat
Laura Frisch
William Hartshorn
David Henebry
Roger Schnitzler
Ben Schwarm
Dave Tomlinson
Jeff Vose
Steven Wilder
Tad Williams

Members on the Phone

Jeff Aranowski
Tom Cullerton (Sen.)
Catherine McCrory
Patrick O'Connor
Carol Sente (Rep.)

Members Absent

Neil Anderson (Sen.)
Tom Demmer (Rep.)
John Simonton

Members of the Public

Sheila Sims, Legislative Aide for Senator Neil Anderson (phone)
Lyle Wind, ROE 51's Health/Life Safety Consultant

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Staff

Amanda Elliott
Hannah Rosenthal

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Task Force Members

Amanda Elliott welcomed the task force members and led introductions. In Springfield: Ben Schwarm introduced himself as the Deputy Director for the Illinois Association of School Boards. Jeff Vose introduced himself as the Sangamon County Regional Superintendent of Schools. David Henebry introduced himself as a certified education facility planner and architect, involved in school design for over 20 years. Tad Williams introduced himself as Lieutenant Colonel in the Division of Operations with the Illinois State Police; it is his 27th year in law enforcement. Pat Hartshorn introduced himself as the Sheriff in Vermillion County, who has been in law enforcement for 43 years and been an elected sheriff for 25 years. Dave Tomlinson introduced himself as a firefighter in Champaign who has been in the fire service for 30 years and was on the Champaign School Board for eight years, four of which he was Board President. Robert Bernat introduced himself as a physician and attorney, published in the Wall Street Journal and the Hill on the topic of school security and founder of the non-profit Safer Schools First. In Chicago: Steven Wilder introduced himself as President of Sorenson, Wilder & Associates based in Bourbonnais and a retired fire chief in Bradley, IL who spent 25 years as a field instructor with the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Laura Frisch introduced herself as a parent for 15 years and a teacher for 25 years, who has worked with children from preschool age through high school. Roger Schnitzler introduced himself as the Principal of Manteno High School who has been with Manteno for 25 years and who worked with Steve Wilder 12 years ago to develop a crisis plan for the district. On the phone: Jeff Aranowski introduced himself as the Division Supervisor for Public School Recognition within the Illinois State Board of Education and ISBE's liaison to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Representative Carol Sente introduced herself as one of the sponsors of the bill; she serves on the Education, Curriculum and Policy Committee and owned an architectural firm that designed public buildings (including schools). Senator Tom Cullerton introduced himself as one of chief co-sponsors of the Senate bill. Pat O'Connor introduced himself as the past President of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and the current President of Illinois Campus Chiefs; he is a threat assessment trainer and a FEMA active shooter and campus preparedness instructor.

Task Force Procedural Issues

Amanda Elliott instructed Task Force members to adopt rules and procedures for the Task Force. She asked members to complete Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Ethics Training as soon as possible, as both are required by law. Jeff Aranowski explained that because Task Force meetings have to comply with OMA, it is fitting to have rules of procedure.

Review and Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Motion: Moved by [REDACTED] and seconded by Robert Bernat and David Henebry. Voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Selection of Task Force Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Motion to consider Jeff Vose for Chairperson: Moved by Jeff Aranowski and seconded by Ben Schwarm. Voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Motion to consider Patrick O'Connor for Vice-Chairperson: Moved by Rep. Carol Sente and seconded by [REDACTED] (Robert Bernat?). Voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Review and Discussion of Public Acts 98-0695 and 99-0065 and the Task Force's Charge

Chairperson Vose reviewed the purpose of the Task Force. He suggested the Task Force start by looking at what is currently being done in schools, what is working and what is not working. He clarified that the Task Force is focused strictly on K-12. Chairperson Vose noted that it was recently required that first responders had to be present during certain drills. Lyle Wind explained that in some situations in smaller districts, because of voluntary fire departments and part time police officers, it is difficult for first responders to get into meetings. He said he worked with sheriff in Sangamon County to make sure the sheriff was available to participate. He said that it is important to increase the number of first responders in meetings with school districts because they bring a different set of eyes to the situation. Ben Schwarm noted that all of the groups present at the Task Force meeting were involved in the original School Safety Drill Act. He said that it is important to have the statewide perspective because the state is very diverse. There are smaller communities so there cannot be a cookie-cutter approach. In a suburban area there are professional fire departments and professional police and even outreach branches of those who can go out into the community but there are also towns without a fire department. These towns do not have the same resources or time. Ben Schwarm continued, explaining that having the emergency responders in the building, at the drill or at the meeting can be difficult because school districts do not want them in schools on certain days (e.g., during school assessments). School districts cannot compel emergency responders to come. He noted that it could be mandated that first responders have to come to district meetings but if the meetings are held and first responders do not come, the school district is penalized. He emphasized the need for school district's due diligence in reaching out to first responders and having a system to schedule meetings in specific time frames. He noted, though, that in the end it is out of the district's control if first responders show up. Chairperson Vose responded that no data was currently being collected about law enforcement participation in drills but the Task Force could do a survey. Mr. Wind said that the form he uses does not track if the fire department or law enforcement were present for a drill, but looks to see if they were invited. Chairperson Vose clarified that ISBE has a guidance document for crisis management plans. ROEs will assist a district if asked, but schools typically take the guidance document and tailor their own management plan to the needs of the district. There are no set criteria; they just use the ISBE document as guidance. As a regional superintendent, Chairperson Vose said that he just checks to see if districts have drills. He clarified that Cook County has a process different from the rest of the state. Chairperson Vose mentioned that Mr. Wind has been sending blueprints of buildings to the state police but he did not know how consistently that was done. At the local level, Chairperson Vose said he has a monthly municipality chiefs meeting, and they accomplished getting electronic blueprints of all the buildings and eliminated architectural plans. He noted that he could see this as a possible recommendation.

Lyle Wind said that it is important that the electronic plans are current and kept updated with the local first responders. Governor Blagojevich mandated that plans be sent to state police but Mr. Wind was not sure where they went from there. Because it was a massive endeavor, Mr. Wind did not know if it was effective locally. Mr. Wind said he encourages his districts to send updates electronically to local first responders because they are the ones that are going to be there first and what they do initially is critical. First responders need to work with districts to confirm the first actions that are going to take place. Mr. Wind noted that districts in some suburban areas have intricate plans but he thinks it is costly to get them and revise them every year. Still, he believes that every school district can provide plans to their first responders because every school district has a 10-year survey and they can tweak and provide that to their first responders without greater cost. Pat O'Connor said that in the suburban Cook County area, they suggest that schools send the plans directly to local first responders. He believes that the state police will

say that sending everything electronically to them may be great in rural areas, but the updates may not realistically be used by state police because they are not going to be the first responders. In most situations, the loss of life takes place between 3 and 10 minutes. He said the superintendent or the building principal should check off that the current plans have been forwarded to local first responders.

Representative Sente expressed that some people on the task force have a deeper understanding than others. She asked, because of the way the information is presented and the amount of knowledge that various people have, if someone could summarize the differences throughout the state or follow up with her after the meeting. She asked if there is anything written about what exists today. Chairperson Vose responded that there is a crisis management plan guide on the ISBE website. He asked that this be sent out for the next meeting. He said there is a safety drill sign off sheet on all the different drills a school district has to conduct annually. In response to these requests, Amanda Elliott recommended that ISBE staff put together a more comprehensive, user-friendly 1-2 page fact sheet on current requirements, and also share the documents on the website.

Roger Schnitzler said that when the ROE comes to visit a school for their yearly life safety visit, the school is asked for drill sheets and for an annual crisis meeting with first responders. He believes that outside of this, there is variation between suburban school districts and small rural school districts. Mr. Schnitzler noted that he sends his crisis plan to other districts almost every year because there are school districts that are just developing their crisis plans. He explained that he and Steve Wilder began working on a crisis plan 12 years ago because they were part of a group in Kankakee County that was given federal dollars to actually develop and implement the plans. Mr. Schnitzler noted that administrators in suburban districts have time to work on these plans, but in many cases, outside of these districts, crisis plans do not exist. He said that in Manteno they complete three fire drills and two bus drills, but he explained that drills vary. Mr. Schnitzler used to notify his teachers when they were going to have a drill so that the teachers included the drills in their plans; however, he realized that a drill is not a drill if everyone knows when it is to occur and what to expect. Steven Wilder agreed that this was a glorified test of the fire alarms. First responders told Mr. Schnitzler to change his routine and he now holds drills at varying unexpected times. Mr. Schnitzler concluded that he does not doubt that schools are doing drills, but how drills are executed varies across Illinois.

Mr. Henebry explained that life safety reference plans have to be submitted to the ROE by all school districts, but they vary in quality. He noted that if a plan is on file, first responders have to have access to the plan within a minute of a call. He believes that there is no substitute for walking first responders through schools, and he does so when he commissions a new building. He also tries to post life safety plans throughout schools so that they are available. Mr. Henebry recalled witnessing a shooter in a school in Peoria District 150. Police responded and secured the school perimeter but they could not go into the school because communication coming out of the school was a challenge and they did not know what they were walking into. He said that luckily the shooter decided to leave the building and the students pointed at him as he exited, helping police identify him. Mr. Henebry emphasized that the whole situation lasted 7 minutes. He thought that the securing of the building was impressive but noted that if plans are going to be accessible to police, they need to get to police quickly and need to be legible. Robert Bernat responded that the situation Mr. Henebry described was exactly what happened at Columbine in 1999. The police officers were excellent at securing the perimeter, but they did not penetrate. Dr. Bernat asked ISBE staff to email Task Force members links to the federal model comprehensive guides for schools, institutions of higher education and houses of worship. He said it is helpful to know what the federal government is

thinking. Jeff Aranowski added that Illinois was awarded a very small grant of \$1.09 million to assist districts in drafting, maintaining or actually increasing the effectiveness of their emergency operation plan. He explained that some of the training will be rolled out. He said that ISBE is entering into an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to conduct training for school districts, regional superintendents and building principals, as well as to develop a clearing house, a school safety center unique to Illinois (a website of best practices and training materials). Mr. Aranowski explained that the federal guidelines show that best practices are out there but he emphasized that the Task Force will be an intrinsic part of the planning process for the grant. The Homeland Security FEMA report was also mentioned.

Dr. Bernat was asked to give his presentation and Mr. Henebry offered to share his presentation as well. Dave Tomlinson said that as the task force moves forward, it is important to remember the smaller districts, which are not growth districts or money districts. In these districts, there will likely be a single PDF layout, not a blueprint. Mr. Tomlinson said that in general, fire departments do not use blueprints at all; they use a PDF file they can look at quickly. Small districts do not even use a PDF file. He noted that the Task Force should keep in mind that fire departments have tier two reporting that they do on chemicals but that after the reports are sent they just sit in an office in a fire or police department.

Chairperson Vose added that the Task Force should also keep consistency in mind. He explained that in Chatham School District, a suburban school district in Sangamon County, Mr. Wind established that first responders are the local police, followed by county and state police, and then maybe the city of Springfield. Chairperson Vose emphasized the consistency of drills, as every school seems to do it differently. He believes that drills should not be staged. He asked the Task Force if they should look into how drills are exercised. Mr. Schnitzler replied that they should define what a drill is.

██████████ acknowledged the debates over unannounced lockdowns and having police officers come through a building with semiautomatic weapons. Mr. Henebry agreed that the issue of school safety and security is emotionally charged, especially after Sandy Hook. He said that when he counted up all of the incidents over the past 20 years, there was three one-thousandths of a percent chance that a person was going to be affected by a school shooting and that a person is more likely to get hit by lightning or by a tornado. He believes that there are ways to mitigate the amount of damage that is done and create a safer environment. Mr. Schnitzler said that there are many different opinions as to how to run lockdown drills. He said he was an elementary principal for years and would not want police coming in for a drill, but now that he is a high school principal, he could see the opposite process take place. He added that there are also discrepancies in the expectations for lockdown drills. He thinks it is key that schools develop relationships with their first responders and understand how their first responders operate, to avoid the sort of situation that happened in Peoria.

Pat O'Connor said that in training chiefs and threat assessment teams, they recognize that some districts complete drills just based on convenience. He emphasized that if schools do not have unscheduled drills, the drills are not real; when districts schedule drills for convenience, it does not serve students and staff. He also said that he does not know why any police department would hold back in perimeter base in response to an active shooter because it is not recommended in the state or nationally. He said that local police departments are taught that entry teams need to get into schools right away.

Dr. Bernat replied to Mr. Henebry's earlier statement, agreeing that schools are still the safest places for kids. Dr. Bernat said, though, that the federal government uses different numbers than the numbers Mr. Henebry used. The federal government bases their statistics on the 2013 Texas State University study in which there were 84 active shooter events between 2000 and 2010 and 34 percent of them involved schools, which averaged nearly 3 school shootings a year. Dr. Bernat said that we do not hear about all school shootings but the Department of Education tracks them. He added that New York Times expanded the study to 2014 (which included Sandy Hook) and there has been acceleration.

Tad Williams returned to the issue of school blueprints. He said that the state police do not collect blueprints. He said that they collect floorplans, which are put into PDF. Each district commander has a PIO or SEO and it is their responsibility to keep the floorplans up to date. He said that the floorplans are put in an icon that is in every vehicle so police officers can click on it and bring up the floorplans for a given district. He agreed that the local sheriffs and deputies are going to get to a school before the state police but he thinks there should be a clearing house where the floorplans are somewhere statewide so that in the case that something happens, the local departments have backup.

Mr. Williams said that some school districts do not want police officers coming into schools with rifles but he believes that they need to get over this concern because that is how police officers are going to respond. He said he cannot speak for Peoria but he can guarantee that law enforcement has evolved. If there is a school shooting, the officers are going to go into a school whether or not they have a floorplan. Mr. Williams emphasized that the only way to make it more efficient and better is for school superintendents and school districts to stop being afraid of calling law enforcement in to practice scenarios. He said that law enforcement need to be involved and the drills cannot be planned with students and teachers. He believes that kids need to understand that they are going to see law enforcement. He recommended that to break students in, schools should be inviting law enforcement and firefighters to visit schools so that students are not as scared when the schools practice a scenario. He said that law enforcement and school districts need to work together. Laura Frisch expressed concern as a parent and as a teacher. Regarding police officers bringing rifles into schools, he said that schools do not have fires in a fire drill or tornadoes in a tornado drill. She explained that schools have drills so that kids are safe and so that school personnel understand what would happen. She said that law enforcement have come into the schools that she has worked in; for example, in her preschool class last year, she had the commander of the police department come in and talk to the kids. He showed them the gun that he wears and his badge so they understood what a police officer in a classroom looks like, but he did not need to bring in his rifle or riot gear. Mrs. Frisch emphasized that the Task Force at a certain point needs to think about children's psychological wellbeing when they talk about the types of drills and how we handle drills; having a full-blown force of police officers coming in during a drill is really scary for kids, even if it is a drill. The possibility of having a real shooter in a school is scary, but there is a certain point that schools do not make kids feel like they are actually in a fire or a tornado. Mr. Schwarm added that the Illinois Association of School Boards has opposed pieces of legislation that would require full-blown enactments for that very reason.

Chairperson Vose said the Task Force could hear one more comment before they discussed how they would proceed. Dr. Bernat agreed with both Mrs. Frisch and Mr. Williams. He said that in Highland Park they are starting with table top exercises, but they will be moving to what they do in Vernon Hills, where they bring police officers into schools when kids are not in school (on weekends) to familiarize police officers with the school and get their heartrates up. The officers rarely throw on their body armor or take

their ARs out of the trunk. Dr. Bernat said the officers do this because it is the practice that they think they need. They do not need to expose the kids to it; they need to expose officers to it. They use actors. Dr. Bernat thinks this is something the task force should consider.

Determine Scope of Work and Establish Goals & Timelines

Amanda Elliott suggested the Task Force look ahead and plan what materials members will need for the next meeting and their scope of work. She said that the statute requires the Task Force to submit a report to the General Assembly and Governor on or before January 1, 2016. She proposed the Task Force meet at least 4 times before the end of the year. Mrs. Elliott explained that given internal ISBE deadlines for putting reports together and submitting them, the Task Force needs to look to have a draft to review and approve by the beginning of December. She said that the Task Force should schedule a meeting in the next 3 weeks and that ISBE staff will send out a date. She added that Chicago and Springfield work well for logistical purposes. She said that ISBE staff will work with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to develop the agenda and that ISBE staff will put together a 1-2 page fact sheet about current drill requirements and safety plan meeting requirements. She said that Dr. Bernat and Mr. Henebry can present, 30 minutes each, at the next meeting depending on what the agenda looks like. She said that it would also make sense to complete a small survey of other states (looking, for example, for a clearing house of floorplans) to see how similar states to Illinois balance children's psychological wellbeing and safety. Mrs. Elliott added that, as Representative Sente would recall, in the committee hearing for the Task Force there was discussion on making sure the information does not fall into wrong hands. The Task Force will want to make sure that the information is secure and that only law enforcement and school personnel have access to it, as members would not want possible intruders to have access. Mr. Schwarm said that the Illinois Association of School Boards passed a bill this spring that was just signed into law that said that a school board can complete its security audit in closed session. He said that there is also a FOIA exemption.

Mrs. Elliott encouraged the Task Force to think about what it wants to include in its report. Dr. Bernat mentioned that on October 22, David Esquith from the U.S. Department of Education who leads the federal task force (FEMA, FBI, Homeland Security, etc.) will be in Illinois. Mr. Esquith volunteered to talk to the Task Force about the federal model comprehensive guides and any other topics of interest. Mr. Schwarm said that the Task Force may also want to look at the policies for school boards and school districts written by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). At least ¾ school districts in the state use IASB's policies, which are very comprehensive and updated them monthly. In its security policy, IASB not only says what is required by law but also links to information on the ISBE website and information from FEMA and Homeland Security. School boards and districts are using or can use this. Mr. Schwarm added that the Task Force should ask what the districts are actually doing with the material and if they are implementing anything. He said he could develop a list of materials IASB is giving to schools. Mrs. Elliott reminded the Task Force that many members are security personnel, but the Task Force needs to keep in mind that some items discussed may already be required of school districts and districts have a lot on their plates. She said the Task Force wants to ensure school safety but also wants to find a balance and not add too many mandates or requirements. She suggested that the Task Force examine what districts are already doing and what can be improved without adding a lot to their plates. Mr. Tomlinson said that regarding educational curricular issues, the Risk Watch Curriculum through the Safe Kids Coalition, National Safe Kids, has already been approved by ISBE as far as the Illinois Learning Standards. He said it touches on the age appropriate issues that Task Force members discussed, but allows firefighters and police officers and poison control to come into schools.

Discussion and Establishment of Subcommittees

Chairperson Vose asked if the Task Force wanted to establish any subcommittees for what was discussed at the meeting and what the roles and topics of the subcommittees would be. Dr. Bernat recommended that the Task Force have a subcommittee that is a liaison to task forces of other states. He said that he knows other task forces exist because he went to a meeting in Washington, D.C. He said that Virginia and Texas are far ahead of other states. He volunteered to chair the liaison subcommittee. Mr. Williams, Representative Sente and Mr. Henebry also joined the liaison subcommittee. Oklahoma and Massachusetts were mentioned as other states to investigate. Chairperson Vose asked how the Task Force would like to report out and how the subcommittee should proceed. Dr. Bernat questioned what other states would be able to share with the Task Force and advised that the subcommittee do research before reaching out to other states. He said that David Esquith may help connect the Task Force with the task forces of other states. Several members of the Task Force said they also sit on the Illinois Terrorism Task Force.

Representative Sente asked the Task Force if they should orchestrate a subcommittee to write the report, as it would be difficult for 18 people to write it together. Mrs. Elliott explained that ISBE staff members typically take a first stab at a report together and then share it with the larger group for comment. Mr. Schwarm suggested that the Task Force wait until its next meeting to see if other subcommittees will be needed, as other issues would likely pop up later. Chairperson Vose expressed an interest in compiling best practices for crisis management plans and training. He suggested looking at what is done most efficiently and effectively within a suburban, rural or urban district. Mr. Schwarm said that IEMA has talked about best practices and told the Task Force that he would check with IEMA to make sure they are not duplicating efforts. He believed they were working on developing criteria for schools that were not punitive but which would potentially result in a school being labeled a “star safety school.” Chairperson Vose recalled a grant that districts could apply for but ██████████ responded that it was open last year and the money is now gone. The grant was only for hardware purchases; it would pay for an alarm system for doors and windows. Chairperson Vose asked if there was another grant that recruited schools to help develop their plans.

██████████ expressed concern with the Task Force’s 4 month timeline, as Oklahoma spent a year on its task force. Chairperson Vose responded that this was a decision made by statute and Mrs. Elliott agreed that the deadline was dictated to the Task Force. Representative Sente expressed concern about the date of the Task Force’s next meeting. Legislators do not know when they will return to Springfield each week but it is often Tuesday through Thursday with a week’s notice, so Mondays or Fridays will be better days for them to meet until the budget is complete. She said both the Senate and the House are usually not in session. Mrs. Elliott replied that ISBE staff will check to see if the videoconference rooms were available.

Chairperson Vose reiterated that the subcommittee would try to get information from other task forces. Mrs. Elliott advised that the task force’s final reports are likely posted on their websites. She asked Task Force members to work with Hannah Rosenthal before reaching out to make sure that ISBE is managing the work of the task force. Chairperson Vose reiterated that Dr. Bernat’s and Mr. Henebry’s presentations would happen at the next meeting and that Task Force members should also collect current documents on what districts are required to do. He said that Task Force members also expressed interest in talking more about drill discrepancies and inconsistencies. Mr. Tomlinson added that he attended a lockdown drill where authorities were supposed to be present. The officers assigned to be at the drill had a live call and they have to prioritize a live call over a scheduled drill. Mr. Tomlinson said that he went to another

lockdown drill where school teachers and staff did not understand what they were supposed to be doing. He noted that this drill was important because the district and officers learned where their weaknesses were.

Dr. Bernat said that the federal government has changed its view about lockdowns; students and teachers are now taught to "run, hide, fight" instead of sheltering in place. It is a priority to get students out of the building, through windows or other openings. Mr. Schnitzler replied that there are different opinions on what schools should do, so working with local first responders is key. He explained that there are theories that if students are directed to run, a sharp shooter could be waiting for people to exit the building. He emphasized that if first responders tell students and school personnel to sit still, they should sit still. Dr. Bernat agreed that there are new issues to consider that did not exist years ago and he emphasized that the International Association of Chiefs of Police has promoted the "run, hide, fight" model.

Mr. Wind returned to discussion of the Drill Act, saying that he believes it is successful as written. He said it would be beneficial to have overriding parameters as to what components make a good drill. He explained that schools continue with what they have always done and do not think about the components of a drill. He said he thinks there is a glossary of terms which may be helpful for the Task Force.

Chairperson Vose said that the Task Force needed to focus on the schedule moving forward. Mrs. Elliott said that ISBE staff will work on dates in the next couple of days, and send out an agenda and materials to be reviewed as soon as possible. Mr. Schnitzler asked that ISBE staff also send out contact information for the Task Force members.

Cathy McCrory asked if subcommittees should be based on location so people can communicate better or if subcommittees will be formed of members from all over the state. Mrs. Elliott replied that it is important to have a diversity of backgrounds on each subcommittee, so diversity will trump proximity of members.

Dr. Bernat said that he views school security as triad: mental health (the most difficult), slowing down an intruder and getting first responders to the school faster. He said that the mental health piece includes a See Something, Say Something program, which he thinks may be "extremely problematic." He said the Task Force should think about including a piece not to address the problem but to say that the problem needs to be addressed, and get the right people involved to help with that leg of the triad. He emphasized that from a preventive point, the mental health leg of the triad is the only time that schools and law enforcement are on the offensive. Dr. Bernat added that the school shooters Task Force members are most familiar with have all had severe psychiatric issues. Mr. Henebry said that it is important to keep a weapon from even getting into a school, as once a weapon is in a school, there is an potential that someone is going to die no matter how well school personnel and law enforcement respond. He said he read material from Homeland Security that said that there is a mentally ill population that is a ticking time bomb. He added that the "Lanzas twenty years ago" were medicated or institutionalized but today they are not. Chairperson Vose explained that at a regional level alternative education is provided for smaller school districts, which urban and larger suburban districts can manage. He noted that in Manard, the ROE has partnered with Lincoln Prairie Hospital to begin working with students when they start to see incidents or have concerns about mental illness. Dr. Bernat said the See Something, Say Something program is similar, but the problem is that no one knows what to put in such a program. He said that if schools tell students, on an age appropriate basis, to tell a trusted adult about kids who wear black, about kids who consider themselves goth, or about kids who play violent video games, there would be so many false positives, but you have to

start somewhere. Chairperson Vose said he has monthly school superintendent meetings and there is a great need for assistance in regards to mental illness, so this is something the Task Force needs to look at. Mr. Wilder agreed with Mr. Henebry about keeping shooters out of the school to begin with. He hopes the Task Force will address features of physical security in school buildings. He said that schools go in diametrically opposite directions with regard to physical security. Some schools remain incredibly vulnerable from a physical plant perspective so many of these buildings. Mr. Wilder said he hopes the Task Force will address this issue. Mr. Schwarm agreed with Mr. Wilder and said that all school districts want their buildings to be safer, but it will come down to a money issue. It is more difficult to fit old buildings with security technology than it is to fit new buildings. Dr. Bernat agreed that one size does not fit all. Mr. Wilder said the Task Force should find compromising minimum standards because many vendors try to sell districts more products than they actually need. Dr. Bernat added that security involves training in addition to the physical plant. Mr. Wilder agreed and said he uses an approach called P2T2 for the four elements of security: People, Programs, Training and Technology. He said that so often schools just want to throw money at technology. Dr. Bernat concurred, noting that a school's secretary often runs the security vestibule at the front door. If the secretary does not have the training, a school could have the best technology system in the world but its security will fail.

Chairperson Vose concluded that the Task Force is working on a date and has a healthy agenda, including the presentations. Mrs. Elliott said that ISBE staff will work to establish all the dates between before December and will see if October 22 is a possibility. Mrs. Frisch said that September 14 is Rosh Hashanah. Mrs. Elliott said she would reach out to Representative Sente to find different dates. Chairperson Vose asked if there would be a cost for David Esquith to meet with the Task Force and Dr. Bernat said there would not be, as Mr. Esquith will be in Chicago for other purposes and volunteered because he knows about the Task Force. Mrs. Elliot reminded the Task Force that it is important that everything is circulated through the Chairperson and ISBE staff so that there are no conflicting agenda items.

Adjourn

Mrs. Elliott asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Moved by Chairperson Vose and seconded by [REDACTED]. Voice vote. **Motion carried.**