

**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

Friday, February 19, 2016
1:00 p.m.

Chairman Vose called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Members Present

Jeff Aranowski
Robert Bernat
Laura Frisch
David Henebry
Ben Schwarm
David Tomlinson
Jeff Vose (Chairman)

Members on the Phone

Neil Anderson, Sen.
Tom Demmer, Rep.
Patrick O'Connor (Vice-Chair)
Carol Sente, Rep.

Members Absent

Tom Cullerton, Sen.
Patrick Hartshorn
Catherine McCrory
Roger Schnitzler
John Simonton
Steven Wilder
Tad Williams

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Staff

Hannah Rosenthal

Members of the Public

Ted Birren, Township High School District 214
Nick Giannini, Chief of Staff for Senator Tom Cullerton
Kip Heinle, President of Illinois School Resource Officers Association
Janelle McClendon
Barrett Monie, Legislative Aide for Representative Carol Sente
Julia Rietz, Champaign County State's Attorney
Sheila Sims, Legislative Aide for Senator Neil Anderson

Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2015 Task Force Meeting

Motion for approval of the minutes: Moved by Ben Schwarm and seconded by David Tomlinson. Voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2016 Physical Plant Subcommittee Meeting

Motion for approval of the minutes: Moved by Pat O'Connor and seconded by Neil Anderson. Voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2016 Physical Plant Subcommittee Meeting

Motion for approval of the minutes: Moved by Pat O'Connor and seconded by Ben Schwarm. Voice vote. **Motion carried.**

Review Revised Physical Plant Recommendations

Physical Plant Subcommittee Chair David Henebry said that Subcommittee members were ready to put forward their revised Physical Plant Recommendations. The members of the public who attended the Subcommittee meetings agreed that these would be baseline requirements for new construction and any major renovations. Mr. Henebry noted that the Subcommittee's conversation continually returned to the current fiscal situation. The Subcommittee decided not to include any dates in the recommendations. Some members of the public thought the proposed dates may be too far out and may give the impression that the recommendations are not that important.

Chairman Vose asked if the Task Force would be reviewing or voting on the recommendations at the meeting and if members were prepared to vote. Jeff Aranowski noted that the agenda said that members would "review" the recommendations. He said that "review" could be changed to "vote" with a motion. He emphasized that the vote will impact program areas at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), not just the Task Force's report and the information posted on ISBE's website. He said that he would like to vet the recommendations with ISBE's Health/Life Safety team before he votes, to make sure he is not skipping any steps from ISBE's perspective. Ben Schwarm said he was also not prepared to vote for any new requirements for school districts at this time. Dave Tomlinson clarified that the Task Force submitted initial recommendations to the General Assembly and the final report to the State Board of Education is not due until July 1. Mr. Tomlinson and Chairman Vose recommended that members review the recommendations at this meeting and ask questions, take time to vet and make edits to the recommendations after the meeting, and then vote at the next meeting. Jeff Aranowski clarified that the fact that he was not prepared to vote did not mean that he thinks the recommendations are not important. Pat O'Connor and Senator Tom Cullerton said they were fine with discussing the recommendations at this meeting and being prepared to vote at the next meeting.

Mr. Henebry said that the definition of renovation came up in previous conversations so he added a definition to the document as a reference: "Any major improvement to the education environment including athletic facilities and other non-educational space. This would exclude singular improvements such as flooring replacement, window replacement, abatement and/or energy efficient improvements. Though combining other physical improvements with any of the above within a single year would be deemed a renovation." Mr. Henebry said that the Subcommittee did not want to include lighting retrofits or window, roof or carpet replacement because they could trigger dollar amounts that could be construed as renovations. Mr. Henebry said that the Subcommittee's definition is more comprehensive than the sprinkler language. Mr. Tomlinson added that that language is based on the International Building Code (IBC). He noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act regulation has a threshold. Mr. Tomlinson said he wanted to make sure that the definition the Task Force uses is consistent with

existing definitions. Mr. Schwarm said that he thought other definitions included a percentage of square footage compared to a building's original footprint. Mr. Henebry confirmed that the Subcommittee's definition builds off of the language of the sprinkler requirement and that the Subcommittee did not intend to create a whole new formula. The Subcommittee is no longer recommending that renovations be required to be completed by a certain time. Mr. Henebry said that districts that do not have money to act on anything in the next four to five years are not expected to make changes.

Mr. Henebry said that the recommendation around access control stayed basically the same, keeping the intent that classrooms can be secured from the interior. Mr. Henebry said that each school district has a different level of need for security so the recommendations outline several options. He wanted to add a recommendation that the traditional classroom lockset be considered banned because it requires the teacher to exit the classroom to lock the door. Mr. Schwarm said it would be helpful to have an estimated cost for each item recommended. He recalled from one of the Task Force's public hearings that locks have a significant cost. Districts want to follow best practices but they are limited because of costs. Mr. Henebry said that there will not be much of a change to the cost of new construction. School districts have used cheaper options but locks do not cost more than \$150 per door. Mr. Tomlinson asked about the unlocking mechanism for the internal locks. Mr. Henebry said that the most costly item is bulletproof glass at the main entrance of a building.

Mr. Henebry said that the Physical Plant Subcommittee discussed having security surveys completed every three years but superintendents wanted to roll it into the 10-year Health/ Life Safety survey process. They wanted to keep the surveys separate, though, because Health/ Life Safety reports are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Mr. Henebry explained that the recommendations incorporate feedback from educators but they still have language that needs to be vetted and polished. Regarding communications infrastructure, the Subcommittee did not want to lock school districts into proprietary software or systems. Subcommittee members wanted to come up with language that pushed the industry to competitive bidding so that there are no astronomical expenses that prevent school districts from obtaining the technology. Regarding Knox boxes, Mr. Henebry noted that some school districts would like to have the two Knox boxes but others provide local law enforcement with fobs. Some districts bridge three or four municipalities so they have to work with three or four law enforcement agencies. Districts' needs will vary. The Task Force should provide school districts with the flexibility to pick their own means for meeting the requirement.

Regarding the security reference plans, Mr. Henebry said that both of the law enforcement officers the Subcommittee spoke with really liked the idea of a color-coded plan so they do not have to read the plan to know where everything is. He issued samples of the color-coded plan. Mr. Henebry said that Texas created a list of what schools have to have on their security plans. Once the state adopts it, all architects will follow it. If there is consistency, law enforcement officers always know that x color is where x is and they can instantly understand a plan when they open it. Mr. Schwarm said that a lot of school districts are already using services and they have shared their building plans with local responders. He asked if all of the districts would have to change their schemes. It would be a huge problem if the services are currently working well for districts. Mr. O'Connor said that he likes the concept and thinks it will work where plans are not already in place, but he agrees with Mr. Schwarm that school districts that have already employed consultants and are working well with local police departments may be angry. Mr. Henebry said that he would change this to a recommended best practice. Nick Giannini from Senator Cullerton's office said that he can see the benefit of universal color-coded plans in DuPage where they have regional response teams and where school districts are in multiple law enforcement zones. Mr. Henebry said that he would like the universal color-coding scheme to be a recommended requirement but if it is a recommended best practice school districts can still refer to it. If there is a published standard, consultants that are doing this for school districts are more likely to adopt and follow it.

Mr. Henebry said that no one the Subcommittee spoke with was interested in making the Federal Emergency Management Agency 428 Primer (FEMA 428) a requirement. There would be no way to make sure people were

actually reading it. Regarding blue pull stations, Mr. Henebry said that there are new apps on phones that do the same thing as blue boxes. The Subcommittee is going to add that to the language and keep it as a recommendation. Mr. Tomlinson noted that Knox boxes are very expensive: each Knox box costs more than \$1,000 to install and the smallest Knox boxes cost \$250 each. He knows that this can be bonded in his county but bonding is not looked at favorably. Robert Bernat reminded Task Force members that School District 112 put Knox boxes in all elementary and middle schools. The blue boxes are wireless and can be moved, which saves installation costs. He will find out precisely what was paid and will send the information to Hannah Rosenthal. Mr. Henebry estimated that they cost \$1200 per device.

Mr. Henebry noted the time the Subcommittee spent discussing funding. Members talked about raising the levy and looking at how it was adjusted for inflation. Another idea was to look at tax caps for school districts. School districts should be allowed to go beyond the tax cap for Health/Life Safety. The Subcommittee also discussed security grants and maintenance grants. The grants try to touch as many schools as possible but \$50,000 by today's standards does not do anything meaningful. Mr. Henebry said that Subcommittee members want to start a dialogue about pushing that up to \$250,000 and giving schools access to the grant every third year as opposed to every year. Mr. Schwarm said that he agrees with the conversation about funding. Task Force members should talk about funding before talking about requirements. Mr. Aranowski said that school safety grants out of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) are not for facility upgrades. He likes Mr. Henebry's idea around the \$50,000 maintenance grant. Mr. Aranowski noted that ISBE is prepping for an FY17 budget without a FY16 budget, but he anticipates the \$50,000 maintenance grant will continue. He does not know if restricting access to every three years and expanding to \$200-250,000 will require a statutory or regulatory change or if it is just a policy at ISBE to spread the money out as much as possible. Regarding fiscal issues, Mr. Tomlinson said that recommendations should not be related to the current state of funding in Illinois. Either the Task Force should recommend that something is required or if it is not deemed important enough to fund, the Task Force should make it a recommended best practice. Mr. Tomlinson added that he is uncomfortable with the word "requirement." There is a long existing process to design the building code, and ISBE and others have adopted this building code as the standard for schools in Illinois. Mr. Tomlinson thinks that the Task Force should go through that process as opposed to making specific design requirements.

Regarding communications and infrastructure, Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. O'Connor said they cannot see first responders giving schools access to their communications systems. The term "interoperability" means something very specific. Mr. Henebry clarified that the intent was not that a school would ever have access to the communications systems of first responders. The recommendation would give law enforcement full access to communication systems within a school through some sort of technology or interface. Mr. Schwarm said that there is technology out there that goes far beyond this and local responders love it.

Mr. Henebry said that building code traditionally does not deal with security. The baseline requirements could become a supplement to FEMA 428. The sprinkler requirement was added because someone felt that it was a requirement that went beyond the School Code and the traditional building code. The Subcommittee's intent was to write this into school code like the sprinkler requirement. It would be implemented as any other building code; if it was not adopted at the time a building was designed, the building would not have to follow it.

Chairman Vose said he appreciates the Physical Plant Subcommittee getting everything together. For the next meeting, he would like to see dollar amounts attached to the recommendations. The Task Force can go line by line if members want to vote on particular items. Mr. Aranowski clarified that the Task Force's report due July 1 to the State Board of Education will include the model security plans and policies. If the Task Force votes on the recommendations at the next meeting, he is not sure what document the recommendations will be included in. They could be included in the final report or be a supplement to the report that is also sent to the General Assembly. Chairman Vose and Mr. Schwarm agreed to vet these recommendations with their organizations and Mr. Aranowski agreed to vet them with his Health/Life Safety colleagues at ISBE. Task Force members need to

submit any feedback to Ms. Rosenthal by March 15. The Subcommittee will meet again and use the feedback to make edits.

Kip Heinle, President of Illinois School Resource Officers Association

Kip Heinle said that this is his 20th year with the Madison County Sheriff's Department. He is the school resource officer for Triad Community Unit School District #2 in Troy, Illinois. His main job is safety and security but school resources officers are also counselors and mentors. This is his last year as president of the Illinois School Resource Officers Association. His primary role is to give advice to school districts and police departments who do not have SROs and to put together a training conference every year. This year's conference will be held in Normal, Illinois from June 22-24. There will be a presenter from the Illinois Attorney General's Office and Tom Dunlap from the Ferguson-Florissant School District is going to talk about how his district dealt with civil unrest. The conference will address risk assessment, social media, cyberbullying and sexting. Any administrator or police officer can attend.

Regarding blind installation and external and internal glazing to block visibility during a lockdown situation, Mr. Heinle said he wants to be able to see if kids are inside a classroom and if they are injured. In terms of classroom locks, he recommends that teachers slide magnets in the door frame. Teachers struggle to get their keys into a lock in an emergency situation. As far as communications inside a school building, Mr. Heinle said that his radio does not work because there is too much concrete and steel. In an emergency, a fire alarm would make it difficult for him to hear his radio anyway. His department can remotely access the cameras in the interior of his school by laptop.

Mr. Heinle said that his school has swipe cards, which are cheaper than Knox boxes (\$5 each). His school does not use shelter-in-place anymore. The trend in the National School Resource Officers Association is to move away from shelter-in-place. He is part of an Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) school district. The principal will identify where the shooter is on the intercom but the district leaves it up to the teachers to decide what they want to do in an emergency situation. Most buildings in southern Illinois do not have school resource officers (SROs). Mr. Heinle said he believes the safest thing inside a school is an SRO but the cost is tremendous. His district thoroughly prepares all students (Pre-K to 12) for emergency situations. They hold tornado, fire and active shooter drills three or four times a year. The local and county police walk through the schools. Mr. Heinle said that he likes the color-coding system but he is not sure how useful it will be because it takes a long time for a SWAT team to assemble.

Chairman Vose said he went to a meeting of the Missouri and Illinois school board associations, law enforcement, private schools and public schools. St. Louis police emphasized establishing relationships with students. Mr. Heinle agreed that building trust is important. Dr. Bernat asked Mr. Heinle if he uses any particular criteria to identify kids who might present a threat. Mr. Heinle said that that he does not know all of the students in his school by name but he talks to many students daily. If he sees students that are not acting themselves or if he sees a group of students, he will talk to them. He does not look for any particular demeanor or actions; he looks for changes in mood. Mr. Heinle noted that kids are creatures of habit so he identifies what seems abnormal. Mr. Heinle also said that his department constantly monitors social media.

Chairman Vose asked Mr. Heinle to send him information about the conference. Chairman Vose will send the information to school superintendents, Mr. Schwarm will send it to superintendents and principals, and Ms. Rosenthal will send it to Task Force members. Mr. Heinle said that Mia Ray Langheim of the Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC) has all of the articles he has written.

Julia Rietz, Champaign County State's Attorney

Mr. Tomlinson introduced Julia Rietz as a strong advocate for youth in Champaign County. Ms. Rietz was elected Champaign County State's Attorney in 2004. Mr. Tomlinson asked Ms. Rietz to speak with the Task Force about the Youth Assessment Center, created by Champaign Community Unit School District #4 and all of Champaign County. Ms. Rietz thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to speak about the Youth Assessment Center, especially because the Governor now has plans to close the Department of Juvenile Justice's Kewanee facility in July. The closure is supposed to save \$16 million for the state and there is discussion about how to use the funds to prevent kids from entering the juvenile justice system. Ms. Rietz said that the issues surrounding youth in the court system are important because if the youth get on the right track, they will hopefully not end up in the adult court system where the consequences are more severe and long-lasting.

Ms. Rietz noted that the community, court system and government bodies in Champaign County have funding sources. One funding source is the quarter cent sales tax, which was approved to fund facilities. The County had a youth detention center that needed to be replaced and Champaign County Board members decided that if they were going to build a detention center they wanted to set aside \$200,000 a year for delinquency prevention programs. The County Board turned the money over to the Mental Health Board. The money has been used in two ways: Parenting with Love and Limits and an alternative to the juvenile detention center. Parenting with Love and Limits is an evidence-based parent and youth counseling program. It follows a curriculum, has very specific outcomes and involves communities and schools. The program's website is www.gopll.com. The Youth Assessment Center started in 2012 and catches kids that are just getting involved with law enforcement, having issues in school or creating problems in their homes. The typical assessment process is so long that it can take months before youth receive the interventions they need. The community concluded that a Youth Assessment Center would serve as a different place to take youth to have them assessed and referred to programs, and would ensure that interventions are put into place immediately.

The Youth Assessment Center is run and staffed by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, a county organization that is responsible for providing social services – head start, elder care, assistance for heat and power bills, etc. The Youth Assessment Center receives funding from a variety of sources in addition to the quarter cent sales tax. The Mental Health Board in Champaign County receives grant money and the Regional Planning Commission is fully grant funded. Each of the cities contributes \$10,000 and the Youth Assessment Center receives some money from the school districts. Champaign Community Unit School District #4 gave the Youth Assessment Center a building to use rent-free and provides building maintenance funds. The building is accessible for parents and is a comfortable place for kids in crisis and their families to meet with counselors. Youth Assessment Center staff members are county employees and receive county benefits. They are all counselors and they also run the peer court program. There are no private partners but that is an opportunity that the Regional Planning Commission could explore. If Unit #4 sells the building, the Youth Assessment Center will need to find another space.

The building does not have the funding to stay open 24/7, but it is open until 10 p.m. and on weekends. Law enforcement can bring kids directly to the Youth Assessment Center instead of to the detention center. The kids meet with counselors and have a Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) screening for risk assessment. The counselors refer them to a variety of local programs – peer court, Parenting with Love and Limits, the boys and girls club, a substance abuse treatment facility, and mental health treatment options. The counselors and law enforcement monitor the kids on a station adjustment. If they complete the formal station adjustment, their police reports never come the State's Attorney's office and the youth are kept out of the criminal justice system. In 2014, the Youth Assessment Center analyzed risk assessment scores and saw great improvement in the number of kids assessed that came in with high risk and left with low risk, as well as improvement in kids not having further contact with law enforcement.

The Youth Assessment Center is a great collaboration between organizations but has required mindset changes. It has been challenging to encourage law enforcement to view the Youth Assessment Center as an alternative to the detention center. It came down to the Champaign Police Chief saying that officers will bring kids to the Youth Assessment Center, and the detention center saying that officers cannot bring kids to their facility. Changes in the law, especially detention centers not being able to hold kids under 13 and law enforcement not being able to send misdemeanors to the Department of Juvenile Justice, require the criminal justice system to have these alternatives at the beginning. Schools have also had to change their mindsets. Previously, kids who were misbehaving in school would be kicked out and could then be arrested for criminal trespassing if they hung around the school. Through Senate Bill 100, schools have a new requirement of least restrictive discipline policies. Ms. Rietz added that the Youth Assessment Center requires a mindset change for those in social services, too, as they go into communities and are much more hands on with families than they have been in the past.

Mr. Henebry agreed that youth that are sentenced to a juvenile justice facility are more likely to be incarcerated as adults. Ms. Rietz said that there are studies that show that for adults, a longer period of incarceration is not effective because they become used to it. The Youth Assessment Center has about 500 referrals per year but they are trying to increase the number of kids brought directly to the building. It is available to all county law enforcement officers and schools. The Center also receives self-referrals and parent referrals. The County does not want the Youth Assessment Center to be only a law enforcement-based program; the County wants to give kids and families access to all of the Youth Assessment Center's programs.

Ms. Rietz explained that YASI is an evidence-based screening tool that service providers use to screen a child for risk. Based on a child's responses to a list of questions, the counselor determines if the child is at risk to reoffend, or at risk for violence, substance abuse, or mental health issues. There are many screening tools out there that social service providers use to help them determine what issues need to be addressed.

Ms. Rietz said that there are youth assessment centers across the country, but she is not aware of any others in Illinois. Chicago has a diversion-type program within the police department. Champaign County looked at a youth assessment center in Minneapolis when creating the County's program. Chairman Vose said that Sangamon County has monthly superintendents meetings dealing with mental health problems. Sangamon County is trying to create a program with the hospital and alternative schools. Mr. Henebry said that Peoria Public Schools District 150 also has a route for intervention. Chairman Vose said that he attended a charter school meeting around the \$42 million charter school grant that Illinois received. The group talked about options for students transitioning out of the Department of Juvenile Justice's facilities.

Ms. Rietz highlighted that youth assessment centers provide an alternative for kids who may be in midst of trauma or who are creating problems within a school. They offer an opportunity for immediate intervention and prevention through community-based programs. Mr. Tomlinson added that this addresses the mental health leg of the Task Force's triad. The Task Force talks about facility interventions and law enforcement interventions but the mental health interventions are being cut quickly. Youth assessment centers can potentially prevent violence. Mr. Tomlinson said that schools in Champaign County have seen a reduction in the number of expulsions and long-term suspensions. As much as a school does not want a child interrupting the learning process, if the child is not in school, there is no learning process going on. A 10-day suspension is ineffective. This is another tool that changes school culture and is a good best practice model to include in the Task Force's recommendation to the State Board of Education.

Chairman Vose asked Ms. Rietz to share her presentation with Ms. Rosenthal to disseminate to the Task Force. Ms. Rietz said that she would be happy to give tours of the Youth Assessment Center to Task Force members.

Public Comment

Janelle McClendon said that this is her first time listening to the Task Force and she has been very impressed. She asked how to share the information at school board meetings. Mr. Schwarm said that the Task Force will have an official report out in July. The deliberations and recommended best practices will be posted on ISBE's website. Mr. Schwarm encouraged Ms. McClendon to engage school board members and suggest things that she thinks should be talked about at school board meetings. It is specific in law how school boards can conduct a meeting and they can only consider things that are posted on agenda, but the law and the Open Meetings Act do require every school board to have time for public comment at every meeting. Mr. Tomlinson recommended that Ms. McClendon have a conversation with the board president or superintendent a week or so before the school board meeting. Ms. McClendon said that she feels ignored by her school board and that the entire public comment section at her school board's last meeting was shut down. Mr. Aranowski said that ISBE can provide technical assistance if she is having issues with her school district.

Ted Birren, the Director of Operations with Township High School District 214 in Arlington Heights, thanked the Task Force, especially Representative Sente, for inviting him to be part of the February 8 Physical Plant Subcommittee meeting. He stated from District 214's perspective that the District fully supports the recommendations of the Physical Plant Subcommittee. Mr. Birren added that Dr. Bernat's "See, Hear and Speak Up" policy document is a great piece of information that the district also supports. Mr. Henebry thanked Mr. Birren for the time he took to attend the Subcommittee meeting and the excellent information he shared.

Open Discussion and Next Steps

Mr. O'Connor, the Task Force's Vice-Chairperson, took over for Chairman Vose. Mr. O'Connor directed Ms. Rosenthal to schedule the next meeting.

Dr. Bernat said that he provided the "See, Hear and Speak Up" policy memo to two psychiatrists on the clinical faculty at Harvard Medical School and one psychologist. He will also be sharing it at Northwestern. He has an initial read by a psychiatrist who thought that it was excellent scholarship and the makings of something practical that could help spot situations. At the next meeting, he will have details to report to the Task Force.

Mr. O'Connor said that at the request of Senator Anderson, he spoke with the Grandview Group about their proposals. He indicated that the Task Force cannot endorse a vendor. He will forward their information to Ms. Rosenthal to send out to the Task Force.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Moved by David Tomlinson and seconded by David Henebry. Voice vote. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.