

## **DISTRICT SAFETY UPDATE – MARCH 15, 2018**

Eva Demyen, Superintendent of Schools

On Thursday, March 15, 2018, my organization SCSSA, sponsored a meeting “A Countywide Approach to School Safety.” Present at this meeting were County Executive Steve Bellone, Police Commissioners Geraldine Hart and Stu Cameron and representatives from Homeland Security, FRES and EMS. They stressed the importance of forming relationships with SCPD and local EMS and receiving training in incident management. I am proud to say that DPUFSD has already established strong relationships with the first precinct and all of our administrators have been trained in beginner and advanced courses in incident command through our fire department. Currently, we will be trying to organize a parent informational meeting conducted by the Homeland Security & SCPD task force. I will let you know when we have finalized the plans.

Other important facts to note:

- Drills of all types are conducted throughout the year
- Our Safety and Emergency Plans are in place submitted and approved by SED and in the hands of SCPD and the State police
- Close relationship with SCPD 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct and our SRO Officer Christine Amon. Officer Amon observes our drills and critiques
- SCPD police officers have walked our buildings and noted areas for improvement; SCPD police officers will be back shortly to inspect our buildings again and they will be given access to our camera system as well as our entry system.
- Active Shooter and Warning Signs Training from SCPD
- SCPD Programs we employ – NIXLE alerts, SCPD Shield special announcements, SAVE Hotline=panic button direct to SCPD
- A select group of superintendents, myself included, were taken to Plum Island to review protocols from Homeland security and receive specialized training
- “Emergency Response Training” from Deer Park Fire Department
- “Stop the Bleed” – we were the first in SC to be trained by Stony Brook Medical Center trauma team
- Security vestibule – mantrap at every school. Soon will have an electronic ID receptor recording visits
- Security cameras at every school - yearly updates on locations
- Security guards posted at every school building and mobile security covering 22 hours each day

- At this time, there is no plan to hire armed guards; the majority of our guards and all future hires will be ex-police officers
- Threat Assess Checklist and Suicide Assess Checklist implemented and used by administrators, psychologists and social workers
- Pre-K – 12 Social Emotional Literacy Program – embedded in ELA & Health units
- SED mandated Mental Health additional curriculum will also be implemented in the fall and all staff will receive increased training

Message to Parents from SCPD issued at the 3/15/2018 meeting:

- SMART 911 – sign up for rescue info filed with SCPD
- Encourage “See something, say something”
- Notify school if your child self-evacuates during a drill or emergency
- SCPD wants you to know to please keep access to school open – let emergency services do their job during an incident
- Reunification point will be sent to you via telephone, text and email, as soon as the situation is under control.

We have planned for the worst and always hope for the best. Our children and staff must feel safe and supported in order for learning to occur. Thank you for your continued support.