

Event: VCS Safety Meeting

Facilitator: John Villanueva

Recorder: Susan Reina

Time: 7/28/22 at 6:00pm

Location: High School CRC

Attendance: Approximately 20

Notes:

- Parent mentioned that trust was breached over the messaging from the threat incident. Parents expressed frustration over the lack of details, and the time it took to get the message out to parents. John assured parents that this process failure was evaluated after the fact, and future messaging will be timely and detailed as much as it is possible.
- Parents discussed Uvalde Shooting and the lack of response from VCS leadership. Other schools/districts communicated to their families acknowledging the shooting, what each one of them were doing to ensure safety on their respective campuses and information as to how parents can speak to their kids about the incident.
- Parents in attendance expressed disappointment at VCS lack of response. One Parent asked if a test message could be announced, then sent at the scheduled time so that they can make sure they are getting the alert, and if not, to update their contact information.
- It is clear from this discussion that parents want messaging from VCS when events like this happen: their kids are on social media, know what's happening in the country, and parents want to get a handle on communicating with their kids, and want advice on how best to help their kids work through these issues. They want to know we have ways to address situations like this with our students, offer them counseling, provide tools to parents so they feel adequate to respond to their kid's anxiety.
- Parents expressed the desire to have tools at their disposal to have appropriate conversations with their kids when these incidents arise.

Parent Areas of Concern on campus:

1. Cars driving into campus where children are walking. Can we block access to cars and limit the area where carpool takes place?
2. What is our evacuation / reunification plan?
3. EL playground gate-can we keep that locked? It is a vulnerable point of access.
4. 3rd grade portables are also vulnerable for access to those wishing to do harm
5. Lots of ideas being mentioned for fencing options.
6. Safe School grants
7. Will /can parents be part of the decision-making process re; campus safety improvements? Who makes the final decision? How long does it take? Can the approval process be speeded up?
8. ETA for Guard shack posting and barrier to access?

9. Threat training also needs to focus on internal threats as well as external threats. What if a VCS student comes to school with a weapon and intent to harm? Are we training for this? How are we preparing to take this threat down quickly?

- Parents expressed that while they want total safety at school for their children, they know in reality, it is not possible.

Parent ideas:

1. Volunteer (parents, off duty law enforcement) campus patrols.
2. Staff badging
3. Camera's. How many? Who is monitoring? Can we get more? Are they visible as a deterrent?
4. Have we thought about hiring a Security consultant?
5. We don't want it to look like a "prison" can we limit access and change traffic flow and ingress /egress?

- Parents expressed appreciation for initiating this conversation, allowing parents to voice their concerns, opinions and ideas.
- Parents acknowledge that no matter what we do we will not make all parents happy with the decisions we make and the changes we implement.
- Parents were surprised that so few parents showed up.
- Parents again expressed appreciation of the presentation and the work and planning that went into it.

The most important items parents want to see implemented now are:

1. Presence of a guard at the guard shack on day one of school year!
 - a. Will guard be armed? Will we know?
2. Form a parent / VCS leadership Safety committee with Board representation.
3. Volunteer patrols of parents and off duty law enforcement.

Meeting concluded: 2015hrs