Safety Committee Meeting #2
Monday, July 9, 18

Absent from Today's Meeting:
-Jorey Bailey
-Mira Bohannan Kumas

Community Members Present:
-Robert Porter
-Phil Hemingway

Safety Brief: Explanation and Summary

Safety Brief: Comments/Questions

Was there a higher survey response rate from elementary school parents [compared to middle and high school parents]?
What is the teacher response rate?

Safety Brief: Discussion

Prompt:
What do you think are important takeaways from the safety brief?
-Things that can help inform our conversations
-Things that can help focus our attention on particular issues

How are we defining "unsafe?" Blurred line between socially uncomfortable and feeling unsafe (name calling is different from the fear of getting shot). How does our definition determine the direction of committee?

Why is there a drop off from elementary school to junior high school [survey item: "this school is welcoming and safe"]? Are they [older students] more aware of things? Are they [older students] more self-conscious?

[In response to only 8% of parents selecting that a safer school environment is the most important improvement they would like to see their school make]
The low percentage of parents may take physical safety for granted. This doesn't mean that they don't have concerns about safety. >>They were only allowed to pick one improvement item.

What is the district currently doing to address the issues brought up? Implicit bias? What is the protocol for harassment or sexual harassment?

62% of students said they would step in to stop bullying (might be high or low), but is there any training for bystanders to step in/intervene? (See Something, Say Something?)

Psychological safety is very important, but we tend to think more about physical safety. Maybe pay more attention to the psychological things people are dealing with. It's hard to identify the thoughts of not feeling safe. Don't know how people feel just by looking at them.

Fire safety? Is it a safety issue? Is it a security issue? Are they different or the same? Safety is more focused on preventing injury or [natural disasters like] tornadoes. Security is more focused on preventing criminal acts from happening. What are the causes behind the idea of safety? Where are we headed with regard to the committee's charge?

Verbal aggression leads to escalation, possible active shooter situations or physical aggression.

Hurtful comments heard in the classroom leads to a disruptive learning environment and bullying. What are the protocols behind this?

Parents think of school safety in terms of active shooters. Students might think [of school safety] more in terms of bullying and physical violence based on the survey results. Shootings are likely triggered by bullying and inner conflict. It is important that we focus on resolving the internal conflicts.

Do schools get individual data? ((Yes, individually presented to each school.))

It would be interesting to see the responses broken down by elementary, middle and high school. ((Available online, URL is listed on the first page of safety brief.))

Is it known that the kid that got bullied the worst becomes a shooter? Is it related to bullying? Do they have a different attitude toward violence? ((Discussed))

Fire drills. How many times has a building burnt down? But we do them [fire drills] a lot. We are doing a lot for bullying. The list is long. But if you ask about security, the list is short. Buildings aren't locked. No schools are "secure." Do they [students] know what to do as far as a school protocol? Absolutely not. We cannot just get to the root cause (example: mental health issues and bullying) and completely avoid the security aspect of it.

Difference between policy and communicating the policy.

Alice training has happened for staff in all schools. Can students participate? ((There was an optional 2-hour overview training of Alice offered and the district is

using feedback from this training to determine what to do with respect to student training))

Discussion: What are the most important or significant safety and security issues for the ICCSD?

Resolution of internal conflicts. Staff training might be helpful. Crisis intervention.

Protocols for treats (social media, verbal, weapons, etc). How does staff address this? Bring attention to threat protocol. Communication so parents know how to respond to incidents.

Alice training made age appropriate

Campus security or school resource officers. Explaining the reason they are there

Exterior doors. Student, faculty, public awareness of what is going on in the building. Let parents know what they are doing there. Harassment tip lines and other resources parents can take advantage of.

What are the protocols? How to improve them? How to get the word out about them?

Teachers don't define safety and security as what we are talking about. High awareness numbers likely from tornado and fire safety drills. Very broad. Fire/Tornado safety instructions located by classroom doors, but that is all we know about them (student perspective). Small font/hard to read.

A standard/common level for security across all buildings. Consistency.

School design and freedom of movement. What freedom of movement will the community support? Ankeny school has common areas in the middle. Higher security. Inside four corners of building, designed for the purpose of safety. Not fair that certain schools will get budget for certain things and others won't.

Bullying/Harassment. Ties in with social media. Preventative measures and continuing to educate students about why not to bully or harass. Teaching kids about having an appropriate digital footprint. They cannot get rid of stuff put out online. More education with regards to social media. Can affect them down the road. Preventative measures. Proactive > reactive.

Bullying and internal conflict. There has to be a focus on resolution. Crisis intervention training. >>"Internal conflicts" mean: teacher-student conflicts, mental

health piece, feel good and safe, appropriate conflict resolution, emotional regulation, self-esteem, sexual harassment.

Responsiveness issues (Overt vs he-said/she-said). Path getting back into school after something negative occurs. Is there something we can do to help situations where there isn't overt proof of something having occurred?

What are protocols for dating violence, sexual assault, etc. when two students attend the same school?

We don't have a good plan in place as a district or building. Community not aware of anything because of so many questions.

Aggression. A lot of kids talk about verbal and physical aggression. We can help kids feel safe, connected, and resolve conflicts/emotional regulation.

Preventative/preparation

A lot of notifications about something small happening. Was that really useful? Get the impression that a lot of things are happening. Emails or calls to all parents because a 1st grader flashed another 1st grader. Necessary?

Do all schools have same text/call system, newsletter, etc.? ((Yes))

A good job of communicating "everything," but there are a lot of questions about protocols, processes, etc and we don't have good answers for those questions. (example: what is the threat protocol?) This is what they want to know.
>>Standardization might be helpful if all schools follow the same thing
>>Parents want specifics, want to know more, and maybe there is a reason not to make this information widely available to public

We are missing the connection to the outside. Knowing which parents have guns, so when a student has an issue, we know that they might have access to weapons. Good connections with police department. How much safer do students feel when police officer is walking the halls?
>>How do we know visitors are who they say they are? I want to know who is in my parking lot. Want police to run plates for us and help us identify unknown visitors

Risk assessment. For example, a kid impulsively posts something to social media that might sound like a threat. Who assesses if it is a risk? ((Case-by-case))
>>Snapchat threats that "no longer exist" / delete after several seconds
>>Law enforcement will go to house, talk to parents, see if they have access to weapons. Social media threats are common now. County attorney might want to pursue them
>>Before principal sees it, it goes through many students, then many parents

>>Do students know what to do when they see this? Appropriate response