

Security Enhancement Update

At the December 19, 2012 Board of Education meeting, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the administration to move forward on making the security improvements based on the plan that was presented at the meeting. This incremental plan entails both immediate, short term enhancements to improve school security as well as longer term, measures which will be determined through the collaborative efforts of the Superintendent and his staff, the Board of Education, the Brookfield Police Department, the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance.

It is important to again note that our schools were not constructed as high security buildings impregnable to assaults with military grade weapons. They were built as open, welcoming facilities for the use of the school district and the community. In Brookfield, all of our schools are heavily utilized for school-based and parks and recreation programs and activities sponsored by community organizations throughout the calendar year, in many cases until the late evening.

To keep students, parents, district staff and community members informed, reports on the status of the district's security enhancement efforts are noted below.

Communications

Tactical Radios

- Working in close collaboration with the Brookfield Police Department, tactical radios have been provided to all schools.
 - Radios are programmed to the police frequency.
 - Provide a direct, immediate link to be used when a security threat occurs.
 - Radios will be under the control of building Principals who, along with other key staff, will receive training from the Police Department in proper use.

Emergency Alert Buttons

- Multiple alert buttons have been installed in all schools and the district's central office
- Buttons are to be used ONLY in the event a security threat is imminent or occurring
- When used:
 - Signal is sent to United Alarm (the district's central station monitoring service) which is immediately routed to the Police Department
 - Upon notification from United Alarm that a signal from an emergency button has been received, a tactical support team will be immediately dispatched to the scene
 - There will be no confirming phone calls by either United Alarm or the Police Department, response will be immediate
- Buttons are not to be used for medical emergencies

Access Control

Center Elementary School and Huckleberry Hill Elementary School

As indicated at the Board of Education meeting, the intention is to approach to access control by taking a consistent approach for our two (2) elementary schools:

CES

- A video/voice interactive buzz-in system has been installed on the outside main entrance door. This system will be activated at 8:40 AM and will remain active until dismissal time
- Visitors or parents will be admitted to the vestibule area where credentials will be checked and ID badges will be issued by a staff member.
- Visitors or parents will then be buzzed through the second set of secure doors into the school. This door will be locked at all times.
- The Main Office door will remain locked at all times. Visitors or parents will only be allowed into the main office only by appointment
- The door at the back of the main office has also been secured.
- At 8:40 AM, all exterior doors will be locked for the day.

HHES

- The previously installed video/voice interactive buzz-in system outside main entrance door remains in use.
- This system will be activated at 8:40 AM and will remain active until dismissal time.
- Visitors or parents will be admitted to the vestibule area where credentials will be checked and ID badges issued. Visitors or parents will then be allowed access into the school.
- The Main Office door will remain locked at all times. Visitors or parents will only be allowed into the main office only by appointment
- At 8:40 AM, all exterior doors will be locked for the day.

Whisconier Middle School and Brookfield High School

As indicated at the Board of Education meeting, the intention is to approach to access control by taking a consistent approach for our two (2) secondary schools:

WMS

- The previously installed video/voice interactive buzz-in system inside main entrance door remains in use.
- This system will be activated at 7:55 AM and will remain active until dismissal time
- Visitors or parents will be able to access the vestibule area where they will ring the buzzer to request access to the building

- A staff member will come to the door to check credentials and direct the visitor to the main office where ID badges will be issued.
- At 7:55AM, all exterior doors will be locked for the day.

BHS

- A video/voice interactive buzz-in system has been installed on the outside main entrance doors.
- This system will be activated at 7:15 AM and will remain active until dismissal time
- Visitors or parents will ring the buzzer to request access to the building
- A staff member will come to the door to check credentials and issue an ID badge.
- At 7:15AM, all exterior doors will be locked for the day.

Ongoing Efforts

In addition to the above, the following steps are also being taken:

- We have met with a 3M representative, measurements have been taken and **3M Security Film** will be installed on all vestibule and main office windows. While not bullet-proof, this product it will significantly enhance safety and access control as it holds shattered glass in place to prevent entry, injury or damage.
- At HHES, the existing second, interior set of doors in the HHES entrance is being moved to create a larger vestibule area. The new doors have already been ordered. Upon installation of these doors, the second level buzz-in system will be implemented immediately.
- Security windows will be created in the vestibule areas in all schools eliminating the need for visitors to enter the main office unless by appointment. Immediately upon completion of this work, two level buzz-in systems will be implemented at WMS and BHS.
- Proposals have been requested to install card access door control systems for all schools.
- A meeting was held on 12/28/12 with Richard Zucchi, a retired Secret Service security expert, who offered his services at the December 19th BOE meeting. His initial recommendation is that we focus on access control and provided positive feedback on our current approach. We will continue to work with Mr. Zucchi and he will continue to review our plans as we move forward.

