

**MISSOULA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MCPS)
Facility Safety and Security Advisory Committee**

July 22, 2013 5:00 to 7:30 PM (public comment 5:40 to 6:00)
MCPS Board of Trustees Room – South Avenue Administration Building

Session Summary

FACILITY SAFETY AND SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE “CHARTER”

The Facility Safety and Security Advisory Committee is asked to help inventory what’s in place; identify “core elements” they collectively agree are important for facility safety and security; and deliver recommendations to the School Board that forward a consistent, District-wide approach to facility safety and security in our schools.

SESSION OBJECTIVES

1. Finalize facility safety and security short term recommendations and longer term issues to be presented to the Board of Trustees at their September Board meeting.
2. Discuss the August 12 meeting planned with the Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Board presentation.

COMPLETED AGENDA ITEMS

Refocusing... Feedback

Advisory Committee members in attendance reported that they had not heard new comments related to their draft recommendations and future issues related to facilities safety and security in the District.

Affirmed Guiding Principles related to Facilities Safety and Security in the District

1. We believe that all students, staff, parents and visitors need and deserve a sense of safety and security in the school environment.
 - Educate/inform students, staff, parents and visitors about the District’s framework of facility safety and security.
 - Develop a culture of acceptance and respect.
 - Involve parents and involve emergency responders.
2. We believe that effective communication is critical to successfully implementing the District’s facility safety and security measures.
 - Implement common procedures in all District buildings.
 - Improve communication as to those procedures and what is expected as consistent practice.
 - Evaluate and pro-actively “fix” the system when and where it isn’t working... falls apart.

Affirmed Guiding Principles related to Facilities Safety and Security in the District cont.

3. We believe that facilities and programs should be designed and implemented to support a positive, engaged and safe learning environment.
 - All short and long term goals should support a safe, engaged learning environment.
 - Facility safety and security measures need to be implemented carefully - recognizing the District's limited resources and possible unintentional impacts to other District needs.

Agreed Upon Recommendations

Priority Short Term Actions (To be completed if possible by/within the 2013-2014 school year)

- Actively pursue and resolve main entrance/line of sight issues in all District buildings.
- Secure all outside doors other than the main entrance at all District buildings. Retrofit all classroom doors so they can be locked and implement a consistent locking system/policy.
- Design and implement a mandatory "badge" system that includes "signing in" and under certain circumstances, verifying identification.
- Resolve the Brooks Street/Higgins Avenue intersection safety issue related to Hellgate High School.

Priority Long Term Issues that need to be explored/addressed in the Facilities Strategic Plan:

- Assure building access control to include:
 - Judicial placement of building entrances and exits; consider/evaluate "buzz in" system
 - Clear signage
 - Fencing, landscaping and lighting to support facility safety and security
 - Designated pick-up and drop-off locations
 - State-of-the-art door locks and window blinds
 - Continued effective "badge" system/check-in system

Priority Long Term Issues that need to be explored/addressed in the Facilities Strategic Plan cont:

- Re-design/implement a District and campus-wide effective communication system:
 - Explore how to effectively use digital communication systems already present such as smart phones, smart boards, computers, etc. and include them in the District Crisis Plan.
 - Camera/surveillance system designed to achieve intentional, defined objectives (i.e., remote access doors; assistance to Resource Officers, etc.)
 - Effective system in all parts of buildings to include cafeterias, gyms, rest rooms, etc.
 - Exploration of tools like a reader board; communication through lights, pages; improved audio, etc. – particularly in “high noise” rooms and out-of-the ordinary parts of buildings
- Identify and prioritize new facilities and retrofits:
 - Design new buildings within the facilities safety and security and public safety guiding principles.
 - Spend facility dollars on those requiring the highest priority retrofit.
 - Assure sprinkler systems in all District buildings.
 - Eliminate modular/back expansions.

Where might it make sense to “marry” Facilities Safety and Security recommendations with those of the Public Safety Advisory Committee?

- Actions that assure/improve building access control
- An effective, District-wide communication system
- Recognition of the guiding principles

Where do we go from here?

Committee recommendations will be presented at the Board’s September meeting. The Facilities Safety and Security Committee will meet with the Public Safety Committee on August 12 to:

- “Marry” recommendations where appropriate
- Prepare for the September Board meeting
- Discuss the role of these Committees after September.