

Town of New Fairfield
School Safety and Security Committee

MINUTES

Monday, March 28, 2022

7:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Dr. Richard Sanzo gave a brief overview of the rules and procedures for having a virtual meeting.

Members present:

Patricia Del Monaco, First Selectman
Samantha Mannion, BOE
Maria Evans, OEM Director
Nick Ieraci, Sgt. Resident Trooper
Dr. Patricia Cosentino, Superintendent
Phil Ross, Director of Facilities

Other Town Officials Present:

Dominic Cipollone, BOE
Dr. Richard Sanzo, Director of Business Operations
Dr. Karen Fildes, Director of Technology & Comm.
Police Officer David Koonitsky

Call to Order

Patricia Del Monaco, First Selectman, called the meeting to order on Monday, March 28, 2022 at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Meeting Dates

Pat Del Monaco suggested Monday, June 6 or June 13. Dr. Cosentino said that June 6 was better for her. At the last meeting, April 4 had been suggested as the next meeting-there was a meeting for February 7 that had been cancelled and this meeting was the reschedule for that meeting-so there is no need to hold an April 4 meeting, since that would be next week.

Karen Fildes said that she would be away and would not be available for either of those dates, if they needed her to be at the meeting.

SOC Notifications

Maria Evans said that she sent emails requesting that the SOC be notified in lockdown or fire drills but had no response. She is requesting to be notified of drills and she will pass along to the SOC.

Dr. Cosentino asked what about if they are not drills?

Pat Del Monaco asked-who in an emergency notifies the SOC?

Maria said that they need to know if there is a drill or a real incident.

Phil Ross said that the last couple of alarms, Glen was very helpful and hears the alarm and sees what is going on.

Maria said she assumes that there is a lockdown drill schedule for all of the schools.

Dr. Cosentino said that the principals schedule the drills based upon weather and activities and the secretary can call the SOC if there is a drill

Rich Sanzo said that there is a schedule on a spreadsheet of drills that is shared with Derrek, but they are not planned months in advance. It depends upon the weather and activities in each school. In his opinion, notification should

come from the officers on duty at the schools to communicate about alarms and if it is a real incident and if assistance is needed.

Maria said that if administrators schedule a drill-Derrek, Maria, the SRO's and the SOC should be notified.

There was discussion about how the SOC is notified if there is a real issue or a drill.

Pat Del Monaco asked what happens if there is a real emergency-who notifies the SOC? There should be a procedure in place that the SOC is notified if there is a real incident.

Dave Koonitsky said that at the High School, if there is an incident, they communicate with Glen to bring the fire trucks in the wrong way, but not with every school.

Maria said that there was a fire drill at the High School and Glen had no idea and should know. It is very important for the SOC to know so that it is second nature in a real event.

Rich said that if there was an emergency event, Derrek would not necessarily be notified, he is contacted for drills. The Police need to notify the SOC.

Sergeant Ieraci said if they have a schedule, the police should know and have it and the SROs should notify SOC if it is a true emergency outside of the schedule.

Phil Ross asked what the role of the SOC is during the alarm.

Maria said that if there is a fire at the High School or Middle School, he is there and is supposed to evacuate but if there is a fire at MHHS or CELA, he does not have to evacuate and can assess the issue there. If it is a drill he won't leave but if it is a real fire, he must evacuate. It would be beneficial to all schools if he wasn't at the school and had to leave.

Dave Koonitsky asked about an active shooter situation when the alarm is pulled. They would need Glen's input.

Maria said that would be an issue that should be discussed offline but procedures should be established right away.

Rich Sanzo said he would share the spreadsheet of expected drills with Maria.

Dr. Cosentino said someone at the school should call Maria's office when they know it is a drill-a secretary, guidance counselor or social worker.

Dominic Cipollone asked about the number of drills that are required each school year.

Dr. Cosentino said that they have 1 drill per month.

Rich Sanzo provided the number of required drills and said that the drills are not necessarily entirely prescheduled-they are sent out to Derrek when they are updated and they can also send to Glen when updated.

Karen Fildes said that the secretaries email the staff when they are having a drill and they can cc Maria and Glen and Bob Gabrielle. She needs the emails.

Rich said that the secretaries usually tell the staff in the elementary schools about drills ahead of time but not necessarily for the High School or Middle School.

Dominic asked if they have different modes of egression for each drill.

Rich said that they do change up the scenarios in each drill and the administrative team just met with the consultant a few weeks ago to go over all security protocols and that was one of the suggestions the consultant made to have different scenarios for the drills.

Maria said that she will send email addresses to Karen and wants SOC to be used to the best of everyone's ability so that when there is an incident, it is second-hand.

Speak Up Update

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to enter into Executive Session and invited Rich Sanzo, Dave Koonitsky, Dominic Cipollone and Karen Fildes. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Safety & Security Master Plan

Continued in Executive Session.

Adjournment

Pat Del Monaco made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Samantha Mannion seconded the motion. All were in favor to adjourn.

Received by email on 04/08/2022 @ 10:28 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield