Questions and Answers – District Security Forum

The security forum can be viewed in its entirety, with closed captioning, on the District’s YouTube channel

Some questions may be a compilation of similar questions on the same topic. Questions may be edited for brevity.

Do substitute teachers receive training on security procedures and protocols?
Yes. Substitute teachers receive training on security procedures and protocols, as well as on student-at-risk behaviors. Please listen to/view the explanation provided by Mrs. Jennifer DiStefano, Student Assistance Counselor, during the District’s Security Forum held on October 29, 2019.

Does the District have reunification plans?
Yes. Each school has a designated spot for reunification in the event of an emergency.

Have decision makers visited areas school districts to see best practices in action?
During development of the Bond referendum, school districts in both Camden and Burlington County were visited to observe the daily operation of various security measures.

Why doesn’t the District use metal detectors at its schools?
Please listen to/view the explanation provided by Mr. Anthony Saporito, Director of Security, during the District’s Security Forum, held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

What would prevent someone entering a school building from a side or rear door?
All district exterior doors are locked. The single point of entry for each building is the main entrance. In order to gain entrance to a building, visitors must follow specific protocols at the main entrance:
• All parents/guardians/family members must present photo identification and the student identification number of their child prior to being admitted to the school building.
• All other visitors, including alumni, must establish an appointment prior to arriving at the school, and are be required to present photo identification to be admitted to any school.

Why doesn’t the District use a system to scan visitor IDs similar to LobbyGuard?
Please listen to/view the explanation provided by Mr. Saporito during the District’s Security Forum, held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

What is the philosophy behind constructing vestibules at school entrances as a priority before installing security swipe card systems and cameras?
The District has been installing vestibules, security swipe card systems and cameras together as a ‘security suite’ of recommended items to enhance overall security. Please listen to/view the explanation provided by Mr. Jeff Gale, Director of Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning during the District’s Security Forum held on October 29, 2019.
**Why don’t all District schools have a front vestibule?**
The District has completed or is in the process of installing vestibules at five of its schools. The District had hoped to complete installation at all schools with the successful passage of the bond referendum in December of 2018. As the referendum was not successful, the District has been installing vestibules through its annual capital projects budget in accordance with available funds. As the District plans for its next referendum in the spring of 2021, it is likely that vestibules for the remaining schools will be included in the projects list.

**How can the District safeguard against someone intent on entering the school to do harm?**
The District focusses on safety measures that “detect, deter and delay” anyone who may intend to do harm. The District has many layers of security including physical security, safety training, a District campus police force (two officers assigned to each comprehensive high school, one officer assigned to each middle school, and four who circulate among our elementary schools and the Malberg Administration Building/Alternative High School), and a close working relationship with the Cherry Hill Police Department and Fire Department.

**Why aren’t Cherry Hill Township Police Officers stationed at the District’s high schools?**
Please listen to/view Mr. Saporito describe the District’s security staffing during the District’s Security Forum, held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

In addition, please listen to/view Chief of Police, William Monaghan describe the working relationship between CHPD and the District.

**Do schools practice drills during lunch or recess times?**
Schools are encouraged to practice drills during various scenarios – lunch, recess or a blocked exit for example – so that students and staff can be prepared for in the event of a real emergency. Drills during these times are required by state statute and performed by each school a minimum of once an academic year. Our schools perform general emergency drills once a month.

**How does the District contact emergency personnel when cell phone service can be spotty at best in the buildings?**
Classrooms, offices and other areas have land line phones that can make 911 calls. There are communication components to the security measures that are in place that provide direct communication with emergency personnel in the event of an emergency. Campus Police have constant radio communications with Cherry Hill Police. Staff have portable radios that can be used to instantly communicate with the school office.

**Is security training provided to support staff?**
Security training is provided to ALL District staff members including support staff members from buildings and grounds, secretarial, educational assistants and substitute staff members.

**Are schools able to modify security protocols in any way?**
The District conducts training for ALL District staff members as a whole – there is not separate training for high schools, middle schools and elementary schools – and all staff members are expected to follow the same protocols.
**What are the best practices for students during a lockdown?**
During a lockdown, students are expected to sit quietly in an area out of view from the hallway with the classroom door locked and security blind pulled down.

**Has the District evaluated gunshot detection systems?**
No.

**Are the current lock down procedures in our schools the same as our surrounding township schools?**
All school districts in Camden County follow the same security procedures as recommended by the Camden County Police Chiefs Association, Camden County Prosecutors Office and the New Jersey Department Of Education’s Office of School Preparedness and Planning.

**Are staff members trained on emergency evacuation procedures for disabled students?**
Please listen to/view the explanation provided by Mr. Saporito during the District’s Security Forum, held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

**How does the District evaluate which security measures are appropriate and effective?**
Please listen to/view the explanation provided by Mr. Dennis Tully, owner of Ronin Security Solutions during the District’s Security Forum, held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

**Are staff members trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver?**
In each school, various staff members are trained in CPR, the Heimlich Maneuver, first aid, automatic defibrillator devices and the administration of epi-pens. All school nurses are trained; at the High Schools, all coaches are trained and at the middle and elementary schools, five designated individuals are trained. During February and March of next year, additional designated personnel will be trained to increase that number to six.

**How do schools ensure that students get on the appropriate bus at dismissal?**
Staff members are assigned to monitor student dismissal each day to ensure students are getting on the proper bus.

**What are the guidelines for determining which students are transported to school versus those who are not transported?**
*Board Policy 8600 – Transportation* outlines which students are eligible for transportation.

New Jersey Administrative Code - N.J.A.C. 6A:27-1.4 states:
Transportation shall be provided to public school students who reside remote from their assigned school of attendance, nonpublic school students who reside remote from their school of attendance and meet the eligibility criteria of N.J.A.C. 6A:27-2.2, and special education students who reside remote from their assigned school or who require transportation services in accordance with their individualized education program (IEP). Transportation shall also be provided to preschool students who live remote from their school of attendance and either are enrolled in a universal preschool program or meet the age and income eligibility requirements of and are enrolled in a targeted preschool program pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-43 et seq.
1. The words "remote from the school of attendance" shall mean beyond two and one-half miles for high school students (grades nine through 12) and beyond two miles for elementary school students (grades preschool through eight).

The District’s thresholds for transported students are lower than the State’s eligibility standard. Elementary school students are transported if they live more than one mile from their schools; middle school students are transported if they live more than one and a half miles from their schools; and high school students are transported if they live more than two miles from their schools.

**Why are the student pick up/drop off procedures at Barclay Early Childhood Center different from the elementary schools’?**

Procedures for pick up and drop off at Barclay are different from the elementary schools’ due to the age of the students. All adults entering the school are vetted according to District protocols.

**Is it safe to have a New Jersey Transit Bus Shelter on school property?**

The bus shelter located on the edge of the Kilmer school property serves many community members. There have been no incidents or complaints filed with the District concerning the bus shelter.

**Many high school students must wait for school buses in the dark in the morning. Why aren’t bus stops located closer to their homes?**

The buses which serve the District travel more than 15,600 miles and transport more than 9,100 students EVERY DAY. Bus routes are triple tiered, which means each driver does a high school route, followed by a middle school route and then an elementary route. In order to get students to school in time, bus stops are logistically placed to expedite the completion of each route. Increasing the number of stops to make them closer to student’s homes would have a significant impact on the timing of the routes.

**What happens if there is an emergency at High School East during parental pick up at the end of the school day?**

If there is an emergency during dismissal at High School East, the school’s campus police officers would clear traffic in order for emergency vehicles to access the building.

**What mental health supports are in place for students in the District? Are they spread equitably among the student population?**

You may view online the chart distributed to Safety & Security Forum attendees outlining the mental health supports available for students in each grade level in the District. The District has been assessing the mental health needs of students and various programs and services that would enhance the current mental health programs offered. This assessment includes the evaluation of current staffing levels in the district.