

DJUSD Safety Task Force Report

05/17/2018



DJUSD
DAVIS JOINT UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Safety Task Force

On March 15, Superintendent John Bowes announced the creation of a DJUSD Safety Task Force, in response to shared community, staff and Board of Education concerns related to school and student safety, in order to solicit community input and expertise regarding improving the safety of DJUSD campuses in the wake of continued gun violence on school campuses throughout the nation.

Safety Task Force

- The Safety Task Force was open to anyone in the community and was widely advertised.
- More than 30 community members, parents, teachers, school staff, city officials and district staff attended the first three meetings of the Task Force, which took place on consecutive Wednesdays between April 4th and April 18th.
- Potential Safety Solutions were prioritized by the Task Force members, community members at Parent Engagement Night and the DJUSD Administrative Leadership Team.

The Safety Task Force Meetings

- Each meeting began with Director of Student Support Services, Laura Juanitas, providing an overview of current district conditions related to the meeting theme.
- The meeting themes included:
 - Safety and Facilities,
 - DJUSD Safety Procedures and Policies, and
 - Safety Personnel.
- Workgroups highlighted challenges the district faces in their area of study and potential solutions to those challenges. Each workgroup then engaged with members of the other subtopic workgroups to cross-pollinate discussions and add more depth to each subtopic conversation.
- The outcome of this process was the development of a wide breadth of challenges and potential solutions that had been discussed by all members of the Task Force.

Safety Task Force Feedback

| Potential Safety Solutions - Top 10 | # of Votes |
|---|------------|
| Institute an Active Threat/ Shooter Drill | 8 |
| Increase the numbers of campus supervisors on campuses | 8 |
| Joint training for key drills with Davis Fire Department, Davis Police Department, teachers, school staff and district staff | 8 |
| Ensure all staff wear their identification badge | 7 |
| Utilize a text app or service to ensure staff have all available information during a drill or emergency | 6 |
| Train staff how to redirect visitors/volunteers who have not checked in back to the office | 6 |
| Increase the number of School Resource Officers (SRO), who are sworn police officers, on DJUSD campuses | 6 |
| Implement key card access to all classrooms and campus buildings with the capacity to automatically lock or unlock all doors remotely | 5 |
| Reduce points of access on campus | 5 |
| Install video surveillance on campuses | 5 |

Parent Engagement Night Feedback

| Potential Safety Solutions - Top 10 | # of Votes |
|--|------------|
| Increase school counselors (for students to help w/ problems between students, bullying, mental health, drugs and alcohol - know and support kids) | 33 |
| Joint Training for key drills with DFD, DPD, Teachers, school staff and district staff | 21 |
| Install video surveillance of campuses | 18 |
| Ensure substitutes and itinerant staff know the emergency procedures and are familiar enough with the site to fulfill the duties | 17 |
| Increase the numbers of campus supervisors on campuses | 16 |
| Increase safety related training for all staff | 16 |
| Implement key card access to all classrooms and campus buildings with the capacity to automatically lock all doors remotely | 15 |
| Increase the number of School Resource Officers (SRO), who are sworn police officers, on DJUSD campuses | 13 |
| Bullying prevention and education (write-in) | 13 |
| Reduce points of access on campus | 11 |

Administrative Leadership Team Feedback

| Potential Safety Solutions - Top 10 | # of Votes |
|--|------------|
| Increase school counselors (for students to help w/ problems between students, bullying, mental health, drugs and alcohol - know and support kids) | 24 |
| Utilize a text app or service to ensure staff have all available information during a drill or emergency | 22 |
| Bullying prevention and education | 16 |
| Ensure all staff wear their identification badge | 13 |
| Install video surveillance on campuses | 13 |
| Install strategic perimeter fencing at campuses where there is a need to restrict access to or cross traffic through campus | 13 |
| Increase the numbers of campus supervisors on campuses | 11 |
| Reduce points of access on campus | 11 |
| Fingerprint/background checks for all volunteers | 7 |
| Ensure all visitors/volunteers on campus check in and receive a visitor/volunteer badge | 6 |

Top Potential Solutions

The following potential solutions were on all three groups top 10:

- Install video surveillance of campuses
- Increase the numbers of campus supervisors
- Reduce points of access on campus

Top Potential Solutions

The following potential solutions were on two of the three groups top 10:

- Increase school counselors (for students to help w/ problems between students, bullying, mental health, drugs and alcohol - know and support kids)
- Joint Training for key drills with DFD, DPD, Teachers, school staff and district staff
- Implement key card access to all classrooms and campus buildings with the capacity to automatically lock or unlock all doors remotely
- Increase the number of School Resource Officers (SRO), who are sworn police officers, on DJUSD campuses
- Bullying prevention and education (write-in)
- Ensure all staff wear their identification badge
- Joint training for key drills with Davis Fire Department, Davis Police Department, teachers, school staff and district staff
- Utilize a text app or service to ensure staff have all available information during a drill or emergency

Considerations in Making Recommendations

- Community/Staff Perceptions of Safety and Potential Solutions
- Identified Areas of Safety Improvement
- School Discipline
- Gun Violence in Schools
- Local Crime Statistics

Continued Action on Items Currently Underway

1. Staff have explored and will select an app that will allow DJUSD staff to receive emergency communications on their cell phones in addition to existing email methods.
2. Staff will strengthen the coordination of joint emergency drills with Davis Police and Fire Departments.
3. Staff will continue the Lock Blok pilots at various school sites and determine their effectiveness.
4. Staff will work to ensure that all staff wear their Identification Badges.
5. Staff will Integrate Safety Task Force recommendations and suggestions regarding facility safety into the Facilities Master Plan.
6. Staff will continue to connect with national experts on school safety research to understand more deeply the causes and types of school violence that may affect our students in order to better inform our ongoing safety-related work.
7. Staff will continue to improve Wayfinding on all campuses.
8. Select district and site staff will participate in Active Threat/Shooter training in order to create a district model.

Recommended High Priority Action Items

1. Explore the policy of keeping classroom doors locked at all times.
2. If Lock Block pilot proves successful, proceed with installation of Lock Bloks at all school sites.
3. Train substitutes and itinerant staff know the emergency procedures so they are familiar enough with the site to fulfill emergency duties.
4. Train visitors/volunteers on campus to check in and receive a visitor/volunteer badge.
5. Train staff how to redirect visitors/volunteers who have not checked in back to the office and/or not wearing a visitor/volunteer badge.

Recommended Items to Further Explore

1. Increase school counselors (to help with problems between students, bullying, mental health, drugs and alcohol, etc.).
2. Increase safety-related training for all staff.
3. Continued improvement of bullying prevention and education programs.
4. Increase the numbers of campus supervisors on campuses.
5. Increase the number of School Resource Officers (SRO), who are sworn police officers, on DJUSD campuses.

Facilities Related Considerations

1. Implement key card access to all classrooms and campus buildings with the capacity to automatically lock or unlock all doors remotely.
2. Install video surveillance of campuses.
3. Reduce points of access on campus .
4. Install strategic perimeter fencing at campuses where there is a need to restrict access to or cross traffic through campus.

Questions?