

# REPORT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Office of Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education Meeting of September 13, 2012

SUBJECT: **BOARD MONITORING SYSTEM–GOAL 3: PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT**

At the March 2007 meeting, the Board of Education implemented a revised Board Monitoring System in order to efficiently maintain and measure Houston Independent School District's (HISD) goals and core values. The monitoring system was designed to give district administrators clear direction on how to meet the board's expectations in these crucial areas.

Board Policy AE(LOCAL) requires that “[T]he administration shall report to the Board on each goal and core value using the specific method and timing set out . . .”

In reference to the district's **Goal 3: Provide a Safe Environment**, the report provides information regarding **Section A. Increase Emphasis on Providing a Safe Environment for All Who Are at District Schools and Facilities or Attending District-Related Events**. The policy states that “[T]he District shall create a safe environment conducive to learning for all students and provide safety and security measures at District schools and facilities, and while attending District-related events.”

This information has been compiled and a copy is on file in Board Services. An executive summary is attached.



## Board Monitoring System: Goal 3

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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#### Purpose

The Houston Independent School District (HISD) exists to strengthen the social and economic foundation of Houston by assuring its youth the highest-quality elementary and secondary education available anywhere. In fulfilling this goal, HISD's Board of Education has designed a program to systematically monitor the district's goals and core values. The Board Monitoring System will report on each goal and core value on a routine basis. The goal currently under review is to increase emphasis on providing a safe environment (Goal 3). The district shall create a safe environment conducive to learning for all students and provide safety and security measures at district schools and facilities, and while attending district-related events.

#### Summary Overview

##### Safety and Security Operational Overview

- **Threat Assessment Team:** The Threat Assessment team began meeting in the 2010–2011 school year. The development of a cross-departmental threat assessment team will establish the following:
  1. An integrated approach to school safety assessments;
  2. Authority to conduct inquiries or investigations;
  3. Information sharing in support of the school threat assessment process; and
  4. Development of policies and procedures concerning the sharing of information among stakeholders.
- **Quality Assurance Team:** Construction and Facility Services (CFS) has established a Quality Assurance (QA) Team comprised of CFS improvement professionals to observe, report, analyze, and update work processes. The QA team will be responsible for inspecting work performed and resolving any issues related to the scope of work performed. The generation of maintenance work orders could see an increase under this program as CFS continues to focus on customer services.
- **Security Cameras and Intercom Systems:** Under the 2007 bond program, \$90 million was set aside for the installation of security cameras, fencing, and security lighting.
  1. Total number of cameras in place at the end of the project: Estimated 13,500.
  2. The cameras can be remotely monitored by HISD Police Department, Construction and Facilities Alarm Communications Department, School Improvement Officers, principals, and site-based assigned staff members.
- **Police Department**

The Houston ISD Police Department's objectives for the 2012–2013 school year are listed as follows:

  1. The continual decrease of crime within the schools and at school district properties;

2. The reduction of the fear of crime. Maintaining a feeling of security within the schools and around the schools;
3. Resolve conflict through dispute resolution training for students;
4. Prevent and control conduct widely recognized as threatening to life, to school district property, and the teaching environment;
5. The monitoring of bullying (harassment) in the schools;
6. Identify problems that have a potential for becoming intrusions in the schools;
7. Facilitate the movement of pedestrians and vehicles in and around schools and school zones;
8. Develop and implement strategies which enhance the delivery of police services in the schools and the community; and
9. Implement an initiative titled, "Breakfast and Lunch Program" designed to enhance stronger positive role models for elementary students by inviting uniformed officers from the Houston Police Department and HISD Police Department to share a meal with these students at either breakfast or lunch. In addition, this will enhance a greater security presence at elementary schools.

The principal goal of the HISD Police Department is to preserve the constitutional rights of the faculty, staff members, and students by being committed to preserving peace, order and safety within the schools and community. The HISD Police Department serves the community with respect, fairness, and compassion.

- **Crime Statistics**

For the 2011–2012 school year, HISD experienced a decrease in crime by 17.39 percent. (4,242 crimes in the time reporting period of August 2011 through June 2012.) This is compared to the previous school year of 2010–2011 with 5,135 crimes. This statistic is based on Uniform Crime Report (UCR) reportable crimes.

### **Safety Audit Results**

- **Safety and Security Audits:** For the 2011–2012 school year, there were 297 campus and fire safety audits performed and 105 intruder drills performed.
- **Building and Fire Code Violations:**  
CFS continues to work with the City of Houston (City) to better identify code violations occurring in occupied spaces for future reports. For school year 2011–2012, the City inspected 253 schools for fire code compliance. Fire code officials issued 556 fire code violations. Approximately 5 percent (30 violations) resulted in the issuance of a citation. The number of schools inspected by Fire Code Officials has remained constant over the past three years; however, the number of violations as well as the number of citations issued has increased by an average of 2 percent. We attribute this increase in activity directly to the increase in the number of City Inspectors.
- **Health Code Violations:** Health code violations have decreased from 627 in the 2010–2011 school year to 557 in the 2011–2012 school year.

### **Safety Incidents**

- **Transportation Accidents:** The total number of school bus accidents year-over-year has declined by 7.8 percent since the 2008–2009 school year.

### **Disciplinary Incidents**

- **Disciplinary Referrals:** Approved secondary schools disciplinary referrals decreased from 2,388 in the 2010–2011 school year to 2,006 in the 2011–2012 school year.

This information has been compiled and a copy of the full report is on file in Board Services.