

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

**May 28, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

Welcome and Introductions

Facilitator Alexis Licata welcomed the group and expressed appreciation for their commitment to serving on the committee. She then reviewed the agenda. The meeting was convened at 9:14 a.m. Robert Marquez then made the official roll call.

Committee Member	Title/Department	Status
Grenita Lathan	HISD Interim Superintendent of Schools	Present
Robert Marquez	Manager, Safety & Emergency Management	Present
Bill Wheeler	Deputy Director, Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management	-
George Buenik	Director of Office of Public Safety & Homeland Security	Present
Johnny Spires	Chief of Police, City of Pearland Police Department	-
Ken Walker	Chief of Police, City of West University Place Police Department	-
Michael Berezin	Chief of Police, City of Missouri City Police Department	-
Ed Gonzales	Sheriff, Harris County Sheriff's Office	-
Byron Holloway	Chief of Police, City of Bellaire Police Department	-
Joe Ayala	Chief of Police, City of Jacinto City Police Department	-
Don McCall	Chief of Police, City of Southside Place Police Department	-
Greg Cunningham	Chief of Police, Houston Community College Police Department	Present
Vera Bumpers	Chief of Police METRO Police Department	Present
Lillian Conway	Principal, Young Learners School	Present
Carlos Phillips	Principal, Washington High School	-
Claudia Chavez	Energized for Excellence Academy - ES	Present
Karl Brown	HISD Police Sergeant	Present
Jose Cintron	Energized for Excellence Academy ECC	Present
Yesenia Taylor	General Manager, Business Solutions	Present
Alishia Jolivet	Officer, Facilities Services	Present
Sue Deigaard	HISD Board of Education President	Present
Wanda Adams	HISD Board of Education Trustee	-
Arlene Kho	Energized for Excellence Academy – MS / Interim for Energized for STEM Southeast MS & Energized for STEM Southwest MS	Present
Brita Lindsey	Texas Connections Academy	Present
Roberta Scott	Director, Social Emotional Learning	Present
Art Acevedo	Chief of Police, City of Houston Police Department	-
Erica Graham	Legal Services HISD	Present
David Thompson	Board Counsel HISD	-
Molendia Smalls	HISD Board Services	Present
Veronica Mabasa	HISD Board Services	Present
Alexis Licata	Officer, Business Logistics & Purchasing	Present
Lisa Blackmon-Jones	Director, Health & Medical Services	-
Lisa McBride	Board Counsel HISD	Present
Debba Collins	Principal, Texas Southern University (TSU) Charter	Present
Pedro Lopez	HISD Police Chief	Present
Lucretia Rogers	HISD Asst. Police Chief	Present
Shavon Clark	Principal, Energized for STEM Southeast HS/Southwest HS	Present
Letha Gilmore	Inspired Academy	-
Maureen Giacchino	Principal, Mount Carmel Academy	-

Committee Member	Title/Department	Status
Anella Coleman	Principal, Young Scholars	-
Jennifer Hough Gerry	District Parent/Guardian	Present
Melissa Guerrero	District Parent/Guardian	Present
Zandra Aguilar	Principal, Eliot Elementary School	Present
Sean Ricks	Sr. Mgr. Behavior/Crisis Intervention Social Emotional Learning	Present

School Safety and Security Committee Purpose and Objectives (Alexis Licata)

The School Safety and Security Committee was established in response to Texas Education Code Section 37:109. The committee will:

- Review the district’s safety and security plans, goals and objectives and make recommendations for improvement.
- Serve in an advisory capacity and be an open forum for dialogue regarding safety and security issues.
- Review and discuss the district’s Safety and Security Committee Charter.
- Establish working relationships with internal departments and external stakeholders.
- Have specific responsibilities, such as reviewing the Texas School Safety and Security Audit.

Committee Charter (Alexis Licata)

- Link to the charter is on the HISD Risk Management Department’s website.
- Aligns with HISD’s Declaration of Beliefs and Visions, primarily Goal 3.
- Purpose: To ensure that we have safety and security at the forefront as we continue to improve on our existing programs.
- Mission: To guarantee a safe and secure learning and working environment.
- Structure: Risk Management will lead coordination of all meetings.
- Membership: Local district and law enforcement agencies, offices of emergency management, district superintendent, HISD board president and an additional board member, principals, teachers, parents/guardians of HISD students, and HISD charter school partners. Any designee of the superintendent will serve a two-year term.
- Duties and Responsibilities: Meetings will be structured exactly like the district’s board meetings. The work will entail reviewing and revising safety and security plans.
- Ethics Policy. Committee members are asked to certify their understanding of HISD’s Ethics Policy and sign a Conflict of Interest statement.

Committee Member Expectations (Alexis Licata)

- Commitment to participating in fall, spring, and summer meetings.
- Adherence to Texas Open Meetings Act
- Pledge to review and provide any recommendations on complex information pertaining to safety and security of HISD students.

Overview of HISD Safety and Security (Yesenia Taylor & Karl Brown)

- Risk Management Department. Ms. Yesenia Taylor stated that the department identifies, evaluates, monitors, and manages the district’s exposure to risk. It includes

safety and emergency management (including drills to prepare students and employees for responding to an emergency).

- HISD Police. Sargent Karl Brown, supervisor of the emergency response team, provided an overview of the process for an Active Shooter Drill.

Response to Emergency Situations (HISD Police Chief Pedro Lopez)

- Local Law Enforcement Agencies. HISD has facilities in schools in five jurisdictions. Memorandums of Understandings are being implemented with those jurisdictions that cover preparedness, training/exercises, response, and recovery.
- Office of Emergency Management. The Police Department is a big proponent of the district having a seat in the Office of Emergency Management.
- Security Update. There is an increase in the cost of services due to COVID-19 (more alarm calls and calls for service). There are possible concerns regarding the George Floyd incidence in Minnesota (threats against law enforcement officers).

Current Safety and Security Items (Yesenia Taylor)

- 2017-2020 Safety and Security Audit. The Risk Management Department is currently preparing for this audit, which is due November 15, 2020.
- Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan. HISD has two emergency procedures guides (one for administrators and one for employees) that include staff responsibilities. Each campus is required to have a site-specific emergency plan.
- Hurricane Preparedness. Hurricane season begins June 1. The City of Houston uses eight HISD schools for Refugees of Last Resort.

Security Updates (Interim Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan)

- See Something Say Something Campaign. A meeting was held with high school leaders to ensure that campuses were safe and to determine what they could do to assist us with our efforts. Their ideas included apps that could be used and use of text-messaging, etc. We will continue to push this campaign.
- Metal Detectors. Rather than going through a metal detector daily, students prefer more staff members and police officers on campuses to support them. They want more support around mental health--mental health counselors and staff members who are trained to meet the needs of students. The district has added more social-emotional learning staff members and provides additional services, such as social emotional webinars and a 24-hour mental health hotline.
- Gun Violence Prevention Efforts. For the 2020-2021 school year, it is planned that the Student Code of Conduct Handbook will contain information on PSAs, and an acknowledgement form that parents will sign to signify that they understand the gun laws in the State of Texas and that they will safely lock up any guns.
- Bond (Safety and Security). The district's Facilities Assessment includes a safety and security assessment. Part of that assessment is on hold as the district is closed, it will continue once facilities have reopened; hopefully, within the next twelve months. In the event the facilities assessment recommends that we pursue a bond, then we would ask the board to consider that.

- Social and Emotional Needs. To help meet social and emotional needs, the district has established a hotline, added counselors, and executed contracts with community agencies to provide needed services.
- COVID-19 Update. Over the past 10-12 weeks the district has been using the HISD@Home Virtual format, and it is prepared to continue HISD@Home in August, if necessary. The district is also prepared to work with a blended option or a face-to-face option. Summer school will begin virtually on June 8 and it will run to July 2.

Closing (Alexis Licata)

- Next Meeting: Summer Meeting/Date To Be Determined—invite to be sent.
- Next Meeting Discussion Topics:
 - Findings of the 2017-2020 Texas School Safety & Security Audit
 - Current trends, programs or partnerships related to safety and security
- Meeting Adjourned: 9:47 a.m.