

Stakeholder Safety Focus Group Meeting 1/18/24

As part of our Strategic Plan goal to improve culture and learning environments, we have contracted with American Threat Assessment & Protection to evaluate our current safety processes and procedures at Whiteford. As a way to gather stakeholder safety perception data, we are seeking individuals that would be interested in attending a stakeholder meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024 beginning at 6:30pm in the Board Rm. This meeting is intended to allow an opportunity to learn more about the perceptions of our stakeholders. If you are a parent, guardian, student, staff, or community member, we value your perspective, and we would like for you to consider participating in this focus group meeting. If you are interested in attending, please contact Scott Huard at: scott.huard@whiteford.k12.mi.us. There is a School Safety Focus Group Pre-Assessment survey that will be completed prior to the meeting.

Presentation:

- [Stakeholder Safety Focus Group Presentation 1/18/24](#)

We had eight (8) participants attend the meeting with the following demographics:

| I am a District Resident | I am a School of Choice Family | I am a Parent of WASD Student | I have a Student at Elementary | I have a Student at MS/HS | I am a Staff Member | I am a WASD Student |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| x | | x | 3rd; 1st | | | |
| x | | x | | 7th | | |
| | x | | | 9th | | |
| x | | x | 4th | 6th | | |
| x | | x | 4th | 6th | x | |
| | x | x | | 9th; 10th | | |
| x | | x | | 9th; 11th; 12th | x | |
| | x | | 1st | | | |

Participants stated that they joined the Stakeholder Focus Group for the following reasons:

- Want to know what is going on at the schools with safety.
- What are we doing compared to other school districts?
- With the negative press regarding school violence/threats, is Whiteford doing everything possible to keep students and staff safe?
- Offer suggestions.
- Rather than complain about issues with the school, I want to learn about what is going on.

Survey Data and Results:

- [Stakeholder Pre Assessment Survey Results](#)
- [Parent/Guardian Safety Survey & Results](#)
- [Student/Staff Safety Survey & Results](#)

Survey Data & Meeting Outcomes/Recommendations (No Particular Order):

- **Reunification Process**-Initial conversations with Crossroads Church has been started regarding the use of the church in an evacuation or emergency situation. The church and school have a contract to allow this partnership to occur. The church has supplied the school district with a fob and key to access external and internal doors. The school will also have some space to store safety (To Go) tubs for clipboards, pens/pencils, reunification cards, laptops, etc...). The main work that needs to be completed is the actual process parents/guardians would use to reunify with their child(ren). Staffing of stations in the process and signage needs to be considered. Once the process has been completed, communication of this plan needs to be shared with school and church staff along with information added to the district website for parents/guardians to access.
- **Targeted Drills**-With the new Lockout Smart Boot/Light system and prior ALICE training for staff, the school should consider further training and clarity for staff and students to remove confusion of when barricading or evacuating might be used. The school should also consider completing drills where the day it is announced that a drill will occur, but the time of day is not known by staff and students. Staff and students would be given notice of the drill occurring that day to avoid unnecessary panic or anxiety, but students and staff need to react to not ideal situations where students and staff are just waiting in their classroom for the drill to begin. Bi-annual safety assemblies should be considered for students to remind them of important safety measures.
- **Peer Mediation/Restorative Practices**-Based upon survey data, students feel that bullying or harassing types of behaviors are occurring on a regular basis. Students want to feel safe at school, so it is important that students have a method of reporting bullying or harassing behaviors. Elementary students are taught to tell an adult for support, while our secondary students can use the "Let Us Know" survey that is monitored by secondary administrative staff. It is recommended that students are regularly reminded of these methods in reporting bullying or harassing behaviors. Making sure parents are aware of these methods are also important to assist their child in the reporting process. To make sure students are heard or understand what might be getting done to resolve the conflicts, the school should consider a Peer Mediation or Restorative Practice Program that has a formal process for conflict resolution with signed agreements or outcomes to prevent further bullying or harassment. These types of programs can be managed by a school counselor, behavior interventionist, or Dean of Students.
- **Middle School Counselor**-From survey data and focus group conversation, it was recognized that we have an area of deficiency with mental health or counseling support for our students. The group recommends that a middle school counselor be considered to support our middle school students. The middle school counselor should focus upon small group meetings, individual counseling, facilitating Peer Mediation/Restorative Practices, and creating a positive school culture through, but not limited to, during and after school appropriate events or programming.
- **Speed Traffic Lights**-The school should consider purchasing speed traffic lights that blink the yellow lights during the drop-off and pick-up of students. An initial conversation with the Whiteford Township Road Commission has been started about getting costs of these lights. It is estimated that the district would need three (3) lights. It was also suggest that we request the Monroe County Sheriff's Department be asked to have a deputy near the school campus issuing citations for those speeding during the designated school times.
- **Internal/External Cameras**-The district should consider adding additional external cameras especially at the elementary building to ensure that all sides and play areas are being monitored. Internal cameras should be installed in all hallways and large spaces to deter negative behaviors, but also support providing information to students and staff during an active school shooter situation. Once cameras are installed, the district needs to consider locations at both buildings that are used to monitor cameras as well as PA announcement availability in these locations. Making sure cameras are being monitored during the day is important in identifying safety risks or concerns.