

First speaker in the meeting: Bill LaWare of EHS Security

Bill reviewed bomb threats/bomb search procedures with the group.

Bill passed around examples of what a pipe bomb might look like. Normally such devices are filled with material similar to scrap metal or small hard objects (nails and marbles). There was then a discussion as to what searchers should look for - what is suspicious.

An organized system of searching the High School has been put in place. Teams are made up of school volunteers and law enforcement. An attempt is made to have a custodian and a teacher familiar with a particular area to be searched on each team. Teams are given keys for specific areas to be searched.

Fortunately, bomb threats are very rare, but they are also very concerning. Juveniles are responsible for 34% of the bombings within the U.S. The first priority is to safeguard the students and staff. Follow the protocol. A bomb threat is a federal and state crime. At the High School and CTE, and most schools, we need to continually improve the physical security of the school and improve the communication between students, faculty and administration. All staff must be alert for suspicious items. Staff should know what belongs in our buildings and what does not.

If it looks suspicious, do not touch it. If possible, secure the area and lock the door. Notify the school administration. 300 feet from the threat is the recommended minimum distance to relocate students and staff. Many bombs are mailed to the target. Be aware of suspicious packages, i.e.: foreign postmarks, airmail, special delivery markings, no return address, badly typed or poorly written addresses or misspelled words. Also, restrictive markings or special handling instructions like: Personal, Confidential, Special Delivery, or a bulky, lopsided, or oddly shaped envelope. Other clues could be a strange odor coming from the package, oily stains or discoloration on the package. Most importantly, do not open any suspicious packages. Many mail bombs are triggered by the act of opening the box or envelope. Leave the package where it is, evacuate the area, and call the police.

The search area is based on the threat. Classrooms should be visually inspected by the teacher (volunteer) who occupies that classroom. Empty classrooms should be searched by the team who is assigned to that zone.

After the search of a room is complete the doors are marked. Evacuation sites are searched prior to occupancy.

It is important that we listen to students and make them feel comfortable about coming forward. The Safe School Hotline is 872-5888.

The Opiate Problem in Vermont and in our community.

- Mark Andrews offered to review the following article in the Rolling Stone magazine for discussion at the meeting.

<http://www.rollingstone.com/culture/news/the-new-face-of-heroin-20140403>

Superintendent Andrews pointed out that this is a very serious problem in the state of Vermont. Opiates need to be handled at the building level as well as the community level. He offered his thought that as a community we need to channel this issue more aggressively. We need to do more of a prevention curriculum. Be more explicit and start naming the drugs. Schools can only do so much. A discussion then took place regarding what was being taught in the schools.

The Police Department now offers a 6th grade Project Alert which is primarily about alcohol. There is a 7th grade Project Alert which covers alcohol and marijuana. The 8th grade Project Alert is where it all comes together - alcohol, marijuana, heroin, and opiates. There is discussion regarding social risk, economic risk, social drugs, prescription drugs, and physical and emotional harm. Marijuana use is becoming a more controversial subject for 8th grade students because of the actual or perceived level of acceptance.

A Community Dialogue Night will be held on April 29th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Topics discussed will include: substance use, identification, parental concerns, managing stress and timelines, and parent and student questions about availability of substances and bullying. It was suggested that a follow-up meeting be held in the fall – continuous information sharing and planning is necessary.

April 26th is National Drug Take Back Day. The hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Essex Police Department and Kinney Drugs. This event allows residents to dispose of their expired or unused medication.