

Committee Chair Brad Larose kicked off the monthly Safety Committee Meeting by asking that introductions be given around the table for all attendees that were present.

The November 12<sup>th</sup> incident at Essex Town Outlets was presented by Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel. - The Armed suspect with a knife attempted a robbery at Gymboree. The suspect fled on foot. Canines were used and the perpetrator was tracked to a building in the neighborhood. The question was asked "Could the individual flee to a school?" Possibly. Security measures were taken at the Essex Town schools. Superintendent Andrews deferred to law enforcement on what the security risk is to our schools. M. Andrews commented that he will keep with the current protocols and be consistent. He noted that it was better to air on the side of caution. M. Andrews asked that the superintendent's office be called and informed directly in the event of any future situations. The question came up as when to notify parents of these types of incidents, and it was discussed that it will be up to the decision of the Superintendent for the ETSD.

The Winooski High School incident presented by Cpl. Kurt Miglinas. - Good work on behalf of law and schools in this situation. The incident started around 5 p.m. It turned out to be a home invasion, and drug related. Winooski High School went in lock down. A relative called 911 that there was an active shooter in the school. Perimeters were set up to keep individuals out of the school. Three teams of law enforcement were formed with dogs and they went into the building. The school was searched. The officers worked with a Coach and a Custodian. The kids that were in the building at the time ended up fleeing out the side door. Every room was searched with the dogs. The Chiropractic office across the street was the designated safe area. Two hours elapsed from entry and search, and then building cleared with canines. Police were not sure about the person with the gun. They searched three different times. Communications were done on Channel 2 which is the statewide Channel. It was mentioned that the sound of gunfire will dictate the way the police will respond. Counselors were on hand the following day to offer counseling to students and adults. It was mentioned that during the after school program no one was sitting at the intercoms, thus, people had to physically proceed through the school and announce the lock down. This generated discussions at the table about what happens after hours in both school districts. Talking to custodians would be a wise preventative discussion so at least there is one "go to". However, if a person is selected as the "go to", they would need to be trained on what to do in emergency type situations.

Michelle Rath from CCSU presented a PowerPoint presentation on School Crisis Management she researched during the semester she spent in Israel. A hardcopy of the presentation was also handed out to those in attendance. Michelle traveled around the country and met with several counselors to learn what they do and what their role is. She was stationed at Tel Aviv.

She had four take aways:

- 1.) Access to school personnel and the constant state of crisis.
- 2.) Webpage information. Crisis protocols were available.
- 3.) Sabbatical opportunities - Every 6 years the counselor's got a paid year off.
- 4.) Scale of crisis planning/preparation. - Drills were performed during and after school hours.

She interviewed staff members around the country. Elementary up through the High Schools. Israel works closely with community agencies. The counselor's provide trauma and crisis counseling for all staff. The whole country follows the same protocol booklet provided on an annual basis. They have a school crisis team similar to ours. All schools are surrounded by gates and security guards allowing people inside the gates. The key in is at the exterior gate of the main entrance. Everyone needs a photo id. There is heavy screening of staff and visitors with the possibility of X-ray to get through the gate. Vehicles are not allowed inside the gates of the campus. School Crisis Teams meet every quarter. Parts of the country that were more attached got more resources and more training. They have more follow-up than we do to support their folks long term. Check- ins are performed months later. There are handouts on Israel preps for nationwide chemical warfare drills. People were well prepared and they were done on a regular basis.

Finally, some school curriculum is determined by where you live in the country. Michelle discussed Essex schools and how we prepare and deal with crises in our community. The communication was most impressive for Michelle.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The next meeting of the School Public Safety Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 9 am at the Essex Alliance Church.