

Safety Committee Meeting - October 18, 2016

Attendees:

LaRose, Murtie, Ravelin, Reardon, Boivin, Barber, Kalkstein-Lamb, LaWare, Goodrich, McNamara, Michaud, McIntoch, Briggs, Cobb, Farrell, Barry, Cole, Larock, Walsh, Whalen, Hammond, Collins, McCracken-DuColon, Leamon

On October 18th, the Monthly Safety Committee Meetings began for the 2016-17 school year. This meeting was focused on School Safety and Emergency Preparedness for the schools in the community. ETSD Principals shared their Emergency Operations Processes with the members.

Emily Harris from the VT Department of Public Safety reviewed the latest changes and updates to the State Emergency Response Guide. She provided a presentation from the Department of Education and mentioned that all schools should have an Operations Plan in place. Examples of a high quality emergency plan can be found on line at Schoolsafety.vt.gov.

Emily went over steps to follow in case of an emergency:

Step 1: Form a collaborative planning team. ie: Principal, School Counselor, School Nurse, Admin staff, School Resource Officer, Teachers, and Facility Managers

Step 2: Understand the situation

Step 3: Determine goals and objectives

Step 4: Plan the development (identifying courses of action)

Step 5: Plan preparation, review, & approval, recovery

Step 6: Plan implementation & maintenance

Any questions on any school's safety manual can be directed to Emily.harris@vermont.gov, 1-800-347-0488.

Emily reminded us of an emergency number that can be used to populate public information about our schools in case of emergency. Call: VT211

Rob Evans from Margolis Healy, Solutions for Safe Campuses, also presented to the members. Rob is the VT liaison for K-12 Schools and works in partnership with the VT AOE and the Dept. of Public Safety. Rob can be reached at revans@margolishelay.com, mobile 802-839-0448 or office: 802-861-1357. Rob studies organizational assessments, assists in emergency management services and other duties. Rob spoke about Prevention and Mitigation.

Rob reinforced that the ALICE program is the national move on School Crisis Response. The Essex Town School District understands the direction and is considering such a program.

Peter Farrell, Principal at the Essex Elementary School, spoke in depth about the school's Emergency Crisis manual procedures.

Kevin Briggs, Principal at Essex Middle School spoke on the school's preparedness of the most serious conditions. For example, an active shooter vs. a student or parent death. A representative from the Howard Center told the members that they have kits to provide support to staff and families. The Howard Center can have more conversation with EMS on these topics. Also there are other mental health service providers available.

Wendy Cobb, Principal of FMS, gave examples of managing crisis for her school. They need to focus on protocols and they have a good plan on school crisis.

EJHS Principal Rob Reardon mentioned the Crisis Guide is readily available at all times in case of emergency.

Rob and Emily offered to come to any school in CCSU or ETSD including the central offices, and have them perform a free safety audit to see what could be missing or what could be updated in their emergency crisis manuals.

Rob and Emily mentioned there is an all day Governor's School Safety Training Conference on December 8th at VTC in Randolph VT. <http://education.vermont.gov/weekly-field-memo/volume-10-issue-36>
Parents, teachers and staff are invited. Contact: Shelley Matz for more information at (802) 479-1754 or shelley.matz@vermont.gov