

Safety Committee Meeting - October 20, 2015

Susanne Gruending, who is part of the Vermont School Planning Crisis Team, handed out a flyer to the members on what to do in an emergency situation and what your response actions should be. Susanne also reminded the group about the upcoming Governor's Statewide School Safety Training Conference on December 2, at the Capital Hill Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. This is for all School Administrators, Teachers, Counselors, School Mental Health Providers, School Crisis Planning Team Members, Local, County, State Law Enforcement and School Resource Officers.

Principal Rob Reardon of EHS mentioned that the High School was hosting a meeting to be held on October 22nd at 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. for a community conversation focused on developing solutions for opiate addiction. The focus of the evening for parents is to help keep kids safe and to talk about drug education and recognition. This event was being sponsored by EHS in collaboration with a Chittenden County Opiates Prevention Coalition chaired by VT Department of Health and United Way.

Chief Brad Larose asked the members if there were any topics of discussion for future monthly meetings. Rob Reardon offered an update on the opiate meeting that was being held on October 22.

A.L.I.C.E. – Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate System - Presented by Matthew Nesto, part of the Essex Police and now in the VT Motor Vehicles Police Department. Matt is a certified in the A.L.I.C.E. System. A.L.I.C.E is a growing trend that is moving from west to east in the school systems. It is getting more and more popular on the east coast.

Several school districts have trained staff on A.L.I.C.E. It takes police five to six minutes for an officer to arrive on the scene on a national average. Schools do a great job teaching kids about what to do if there is a fire. However, most schools don't know how to deal with an active shooter/violent intruder. There are three natural responses. Fight. Flight. Freeze.

Alert. We have learned examples from Columbine and Virginia Tech along the way. Many studies show that we do not need to be moving. Alerts can be from emails, texts, phone calls, surveillance, the PA System, the web, twitter or facebook to get information flowing rapidly. Information is power.

Lockdown. This is a great starting point. It needs to be decided when, where, before, during, and after. Locked doors provide a time barrier. This can buy time. Barricade the doors. Schools should have a code with police to open the doors after being barricaded.

Inform. Real time information is sent and provided by all means possible. This info is used to make the best options for survival.

Counter. This is controversial. Should you fight back? Should you fight for your life? Should this be a last resort? Engage in acts that will distract the shooter. ie: noise, movement, distance, throw things.

Evacuate. Get outside. Reunification points should be established. Run and fight to survive. There needs to be accountability when students evacuate.

When faced with danger, you must do something.

It was mentioned in the meeting that more tourniquets should be provided in classrooms and staff should be trained also.

