

Security updates and reminders

Safety and security is continuously reinforced at BCSD through reviewing and updating plans, conducting safety meetings and table top drills, practicing drills with students and training staff. These efforts have taken a different tone of late.

Following the tragedy in Newtown, CT, Brockport's plans have been analyzed even further resulting in additional training and an in-depth look at security District-wide to find ways to enhance our safety efforts.

Security Measures

Safety measures in place throughout the District include security patrols 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Closed Circuit TVs (cameras) at every school, all entrances are locked during school hours at the elementary buildings, and the main entrance at the middle and high schools are staffed by security personnel to sign visitors in – with all other doors locked. Ginther, Barclay and Hill School visitors gain access through an intercom/camera system during school hours. Greeters and office staff have a list of visitors and verify the purpose of their visit.

Security Upgrades

As part of the capital project approved by voters in September 2012, modifications to the middle school main entrance are slated to be made, including adding an intercom/camera system. Additional security cameras will also be added throughout the District.

Training

Safety training is ongoing throughout the year. Trainings include active shooter awareness, building tours with law enforcement agencies, tabletop exercises and drills, building safety and crisis team meetings. Trainings have been provided by various agencies, such as the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Department of Homeland Security and Secret Service, Missing and Exploited Children and the District's insurance carrier, Utica National. Transportation staff also undergo training annually to keep our students safe on the bus. Recently, a State Education Department training titled "Hazard, Harm, and Risk" covered a myriad of scenarios that included terrorists, hijackers, how to comply with demands, and protecting students. Transportation Director Joe LaMarca is a Master School Bus Driver Instructor and is part of the State Education department curriculum development.

"I am committed to bringing our staff the most up to date information as well as responding to industry concerns," said Mr. LaMarca. "We must give all of our employees the tools and training they need to be successful and the most important goal is keeping our children safe."

On January 15 the Monroe County Sheriff's office conducted a meeting to discuss prevention, preparation and response to potential threats at schools. The meeting included remarks from Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn and a presentation from leaders of the SWAT team about pre incident detection, incident response and police response.

"It was helpful to attend the meeting with other administrators and security personnel and receive reassurance that everything we are doing is in line with what was being recommended," said Dr. Lesli C. Myers, Superintendent. "It is important that we keep up-to-date with our security measures."

Drills

Multiple drills are practiced throughout the year with students at various times during the day, including drills where students may be locked down in a building.

"We try to consider every possible scenario from a weather emergency to an intruder in a school," said Darrin Winkley, Assistant Superintendent for Business. "We have a great relationship with emergency responders who we keep updated on our emergency procedures."

When a tragedy hits

Upon the news of the tragedy in Newtown, CT, the District's Mental Health Crisis Team convened to review response plans. While the tragedy happened many miles from Brockport, its impact was profound. Any time there is a crisis within the District and some crises which occur outside the boundaries of the School District, the school building or District level crisis team meets to first identify students or staff who may be personally impacted and need assistance. The primary goal of the Mental Health Crisis Team(s) is to help students and staff through a difficult situation. The developmental stages of all students are taken into consideration as interventions are implemented to help mitigate fears and stress. Due to the developmental age of our youngest students (K-5), a tragedy is not discussed in the classroom. Teachers and staff will address independently if a student asks a question—and then they will answer honestly and as simply as possible, stressing that we do everything possible to be safe in school.

Faculty, staff and administrators also monitor students and will seek assistance from a counselor if needed. Interventions for older students are different and focus on disseminating factual information to help students cope with the thoughts and feelings they are experiencing.

Resources for families are made available on the District's website www.bcs1.org/parentscorner.

(continued on p.3)

How Parents can help create safe schools

(provided by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office)

- Discuss the school's discipline policy with your child. Show your support for the rules, and help your child understand the reasons for them.
- Involve your child in setting rules for appropriate behavior at home.
- Talk with your child about the violence he or she sees on television, in video games, and possibly in the neighborhood. Help your child understand the consequences of violence.
- Teach your child how to solve problems. Praise your child when he or she follows through.
- Help your child find ways to show anger that do not involve verbally or physically hurting others.
- When you get angry, use it as an opportunity to model these appropriate responses for your child and talk about it.

More tips can be found at www.bcs1.org/parentscorner.

(continued from p. 2)

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Communicating with families

In the event of an emergency at BCSD, the District will utilize its automated notification system to call home, work and cell phone numbers on file as well as send an email (important but non-emergency calls are sometimes made to home phone numbers and emails only). Please remember to update your contact information any time it changes throughout the school year by contacting the Registrar's Office at (585) 637-1857 or Registrar@bcs1.org.

Pedestrian safety

Please remember to adhere to the campus speed limit of 15 MPH and be cautious of all pedestrians on our campus. Be extra diligent during winter months by taking an extra moment to look before pulling out into traffic and be sure to check all crosswalks before proceeding.

Stop at "flashing reds"

Please continue to stay alert for children loading and unloading the school bus and stop for flashing red lights. School bus drivers are trained to pull over to relieve traffic, when able to do so safely. According to the NYS Education Department, the number of Passing Motorist fatalities has decreased steadily over the last five decades in New York State, however, the number of close calls or near misses continue to plague school transportation systems.

Passing a stopped school bus while loading/unloading is a five point violation, and \$250-\$400 or 30 days imprisonment for the first conviction.



SAFETY TIPLINE

You can help keep Brockport CSD a safe place

Remember to contact the District's confidential Safety Tip Line if you are aware of any activity that could potentially put students, staff or our school property at risk.

1-877-453-0006 or www.bcs1.org/tipline
For emergencies, call 911.

Strategic planning

"We engage and empower each student to achieve excellence as a learner and citizen."



Committee members illustrate their team's vision.

The District's new mission statement, as part of our strategic plan, highlights our purpose and student focus. In December, a committee of District and parent representatives met with consultant Sean Brady, from Prism Decision Systems. The two-day planning session built on feedback from Opening Day to develop a more concise mission statement that better summarized our purpose. During the meeting, core beliefs and a draft vision were also developed.

The final steps of the process include finalizing the vision and agreeing to a set of strategic performance measures, targets, strategies and identifying immediate priorities. Brockport's strategic plan will be rolled out during the coming months.

"I was proud to have participated in this event," said Lynn Moulton, PTSA President. "It was an excellent opportunity for a cross-section of parents, teachers and administrators to focus on defining the mission of BCSD. The District's commitment to a quality education for our students goes above and beyond the norm and we as parents must recognize and support their efforts."

Core Beliefs

Students first:

Our students are our first priority.

Character:

We value integrity, diversity and respect for all.

High expectations:

We believe all students can learn and hold high expectations for ourselves and our students.

Teaching & learning:

Effective teaching and a rigorous curriculum are the foundations for high-quality learning.

Work ethic:

We work hard and take pride in all that we do.

Health and safety:

We all have an obligation to promote a healthy, safe and secure environment.

Community:

Student, family and community engagement is critical for our success.

Universal PreKindergarten program

Brockport Central Schools will continue to offer the grant funded Universal PreKindergarten program. If your child will be four years old by December 1, 2013, and is a District resident, he or she is eligible to attend for the 2013-2014 school year. Students are selected for available slots through a lottery process, which will be held on May 15. The lottery application will be mailed to all families with eligible children in April, and will be due back by May 10.

To receive preK related mailings, contact the Registrar's Office at 637-1857. Information about the program is posted at www.bcs1.org/upk or you may contact Cherie Black at 637-1816.

