



NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY SERVICES

October 21, 2011

Superintendent Lori White
Board Chairman Frank Kovach
Sarasota County Schools
1960 Landings Blvd
Sarasota, Fl 34231

Dear Superintendent White and Chairman Kovach:

As you may recall, my colleagues and I had the pleasure of conducting a school security assessment for Sarasota County Schools in 2003. I had the pleasure of returning to Sarasota County back in June of this year to present a workshop on school security and emergency preparedness for School Resource Officers, county health officials and district staff.

During my visit this year, I was astounded by the improvements made in security and emergency preparedness since our initial visit in 2003. I had the pleasure of visiting your district's new school police and security facility. I also had the opportunity to talk with Chief Larry Leon and Manager Darrell Reyka about the many physical security, emergency planning, outside funding initiatives, and collaboration efforts with other agencies which have evolved since our initial assessment.

Enhanced camera systems, fencing and other physical security enhancements, new emergency preparedness technology, a state-of-the-art school police facility, and enhanced emergency preparedness were among the many improvements I was able to see and hear about while in town for the workshop. Although the purpose of my visit was not to conduct a formal follow-up assessment, it was clear advancements have been made in many areas since our 2003 report.

I congratulate Chief Larry Leon and Manager Darrell Reyka for their leadership in moving their department and your district's efforts forward. I commend your district's School Resource Officers, county health officials and your numerous community agency partners on the progress you have made since 2003. I also commend you and your board members for their leadership in keeping school safety on the front burner in policy, funding, and day-to-day practice.

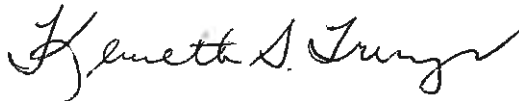
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Please share my observations with your entire school board. As we know, during tough budget times it is often easy to look to prevention, security, policing, and preparedness measures as a first stop for making cuts. I am so happy to see you continue to take a deeper, longer range and more thoughtful approach by keeping school safety front-and-center in not only words, but most importantly in your budget and practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth S. Trump".

Kenneth S. Trump, M.P.A.
President

cc: ✓ Chief Larry Leon, Sarasota County School Police Department
Manager Darrell Reyka, Sarasota County School Police Department