

## **Focused on Safety and Security School Board Workshop**

Sarasota County Schools  
January 22, 2013

## **Events that Changed School Safety and Security As We Knew It**

- August 1999 – Columbine High School
- September 2001 – Terrorist action in New York City, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania

## **The Process of Selecting a Consultant for a Comprehensive Assessment**

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- November 2002 – Identified the need for a professional security assessment
- December 2002 - Release of an RFP for services
- January 2003 – Evaluation of proposals
- February 2003 – Approval by School Board of contract

## **The Process of Conducting a Comprehensive Assessment**

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- Site visits by teams from National School Safety and Security
- March 31-July 15: Six interim reports were received
- August 2003: The final report was received
- August 2003: The Executive Summary was publicly released

## Highlights of 2003 Assessment

- Sarasota County has one of the best law enforcement – school partnerships in the country
- There is a strong positive school climate in all schools
- Strong critical incident plans and a leadership team who reviews and monitors plans
- CPI Crisis Intervention training for staff

## Highlights of 2003 Assessment

- Active relationship with the County Emergency Management program
- Up-to-date communications network linked with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
- Clean and well maintained facilities
- Excellent overall telecommunication resources and capabilities

## **Highlights of the 2003 Assessment**

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- Board and administration sincerely concerned about student and staff safety
- Strong focus on academic achievement
- Strong community support
- Significant adult visibility and supervision at most schools

## **Highlights of the 2003 Assessment**

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- Good promotion of safety programs
- Wide array of prevention and intervention programs
- Updated alarm system in all schools
- Enhanced photo identification system being used for employees

## **Risk-reduction Recommendations**

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- Creation of a Department of Safety and Security
- We need to define what is “best practice” for Sarasota County Public Schools
- Provide immediate and ongoing training
- Develop and deliver student, parent and community awareness programs

## **Risk-reduction Recommendations**

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- Provide digital security camera systems
- Build upon existing Critical Incident Plans
- Continue access control initiatives
- Limit distribution of campus maps

## **Risk-reduction Recommendation**

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- Enhance visitor/contractor/support staff sign-in and out protocols
- Provide intercom ability allowing food service entry doors to be secured
- Expand campus two-way radio communications
- Build upon existing Critical Incident Plans

## **Risk-reduction Recommendations**

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- Review residential security trailer program
- Review student cell phone use policy
- Expand public address speakers outdoor
- Standardize security signage

## **School Safety and Security 2013**

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- Video security cameras
- Access control
- Fencing
- Lock and key policy

## **School Safety and Security 2013**

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- Visitor Management
- Two-way Radio Communications
- Food service receiving areas
- Criminal history check

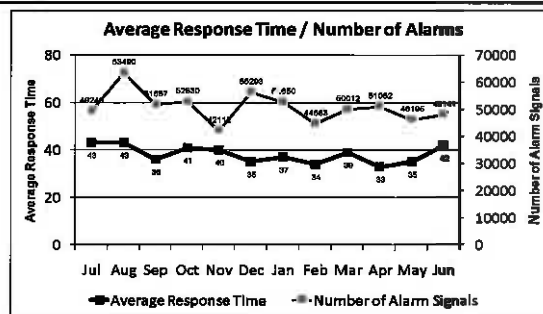
## School Safety and Security 2013

- Crisis response/preparedness
- Severe weather notifications
- Shelter management
- Safety & Security Communications Center

## School Safety and Security 2013



### Central Alarm Responses



The blue line represents average response time. The red line is the total number of alarms.



## The Next Steps as we Continue to Improve Our Program of School Safety

- Recommend necessary budget adjustments
- Continue to review and update emergency preparedness procedures and documentation following National Incident Management System (NIMS) guidelines
- Continue to seek grants and alternative funding to enhance school safety programs
- Continue to build on community partnerships supporting safe schools

## The Next Steps as we Continue to Improve Our Program of School Safety

- Enhance ongoing staff training related to school safety
- Evaluate the performance of school security staff and the School Resource Officer Program (SRO). Take the necessary steps to maintain and/or enhance these programs.
- Conduct periodic tests and drills of crisis response plans, and evaluate their effectiveness
- Continue to enact and implement safety and crisis preparedness policies based on best practices.
- ***Plan, Prepare, and Practice***

## Consultants 2003 Commentary

- *“Your district should be proud of its accomplishments and commitment to school safety. As we indicated in our report, each member of the consultant team has said that we would not hesitate to send our children to Sarasota County Public Schools. The dedication and quality of staff, leadership of Superintendent... is commendable.”*

*Kenneth Trump,  
President and CEO  
National School Safety and Security*

## Consultants 2011 Commentary

- *“During my visit this year, I was astounded by the improvement made in security and emergency preparedness since my initial visit in 2003. 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 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.”*

*Kenneth Trump,  
President and CEO  
National School Safety and Security*

## **General Safety and Security Questions and Discussion**

- **Florida State Statute 281.301**
  - **Security systems; records and meetings exempt from public access or disclosure.**— Information relating to the security systems for any property owned by or leased to the state or any of its political subdivisions, ... including all records, information, photographs, audio and visual presentations, schematic diagrams, surveys, recommendations, or consultations or portions thereof relating directly to or revealing such systems or information, and all meetings related directly to or that would reveal such systems or information are confidential and exempt from ss. 119.07(1) and 286.011 and other laws and rules requiring public access or disclosure.

