



Henry Schantzen <hschantzen@bluffviewmontessori.org>

School Safety Center follow up

1 message

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Mon, Jul 29, 2024 at 3:26 PM

To: "Henry Schantzen (hschantzen@bluffviewmontessori.org)" <hschantzen@bluffviewmontessori.org>

Henry,

Good afternoon. It was a pleasure working with you last week. I hope you have a fabulous vacation. You are doing a lot of things right at Bluffview. You are taking several steps to create a safe and welcoming school environment.

Things I observed during the visit that are following current best practices.

- You have a secure front entrance with the ability to see visitors approaching the building.
- You have great sight lines to the outside throughout the building. This can work to your advantage. It gives staff an opportunity to see situations and time to react. During a **secure** (something is occurring outside the building in the community) you can determine if staff should pull the shades on a case by case basis. The first priority during a **lockdown** (threat inside the building) is to get in a secure location out of sight from the internal corridor. Then staff can determine if pulling exterior shades is a next step. They should not do it if they feel it compromises their safety.
- You are looking into separating the bus drop off from parent drop off. This will increase safety and I encourage you to continue exploring how to make it work for the beginning of the school year.
- You have locks on the classroom doors that can quickly be locked from the inside of the room without using a key.
- Fencing around the playground creates a sense of ownership of the space. As we discussed you could add additional space around the gate and by the shrubs. If you choose to do this, you will need to determine at what point you will stop the fencing.
- You indicate that you are continuing to update your camera system. This is a great investigative tool and depending on placement can be somewhat of a deterrent.

Things to consider to continue to enhance your school safety efforts:

- You may find some grants at the national clearing house-they are not all federal grants.
<https://www.schoolsafety.gov/grants-finder-tool>
- I have attached the Orono parent brochure for your reference. They have done a nice job of being forward with their communication with parents-giving general information. They do not share the emergency operation policy/plan which is protected through data privacy.
- Lunch room entrance: consider having a staff member stand outside with students when they are working in that space.
 - Clean up around fire sprinkler system inside and clear area on the outside for easier access to the fire sprinkler connection.
- Fire alarm: should not be pulled unless there is a fire.
- Communication: continue to explore options for creating redundancy in your communication system. You indicated that you are using your phone system to page throughout the building which is great. You may want to try to find a way to create an additional redundancy by more robust radio usage-especially for staff that have students outside.
- Consider adopting new clear language as part of an updated plan/policy. We worked with Cotter a couple years ago and they indicated that they were going to try to work towards the **I Love U Guys Foundation standard response protocol (SRP)**: Run/hide/fight is not as applicable in your setting as it is in higher ed.
 - Lockdown: Threat is on the inside of the building. Occupants should get in a secure location out of side, behind a locked door. If occupants are outside the building they should stay outside-go to a secure location away from the building-could be the mall or other identified location.
 - Secure: The threat is outside the building. Everyone comes inside. Movement on the inside of the building can go on as usual. Nobody goes outside for recess, gym etc. Assure exterior doors are locked.
 - Hold: hallways need to be kept clear due to an incident such as a medical, fight etc. Teachers keep students in the classrooms away from the area. Teaching can go on as usual in the classroom until issue has been resolved.
 - Evacuate: you are already using this as part of your fire procedures
 - Shelter: you are already doing this as part of your severe weather plan

If you have any questions or if I missed anything, please feel free to reach out. Have a great day.

Connie Forster | Safe School Assessment Coordinator

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

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Orono Parent Handout.pdf

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