**School Security – Active Assailant Talking Points**

Issue

1. Many parents have reached out to me asked me to bring this matter up at the board level which is why it is on the agenda.
2. As a country, our moral compass is not where it should be. We are desensitized towards violence and there is a total lack of respect for the rule of law.
3. With the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, TX that took the lives of 19 students and 2 teachers and the catastrophic breakdown and failure of the law enforcement response.
4. In addition, the recent shooting at the Oxford, MI high school where 4 students were killed and the alleged failure of school staff in the handling of same.
5. Finally, the tragic shooting in Parkland, FL where 17 students were killed and again, the failure of law enforcement to engage and neutralize the shooter.
6. I am not naïve to think that it can’t happen here…. but it can’t happen here.
7. We want our kids to be safe and secure while in our schools **and** we want them to go home.

Current Status

1. We have a very mature school safety program that we have invested significant dollars in; it is layered and consists of many strategies and capabilities to mitigate the risk of an active assailant incident.
2. We utilize security technology (alarms and cameras), secured entrances, security laminate on our windows, bollards at both the entrances at GHS and KMS designed to mitigate vehicle ramming attacks, compartmentalized doors at GHS that close to stop the would-be assailant from moving throughout the school, active shooter drills for staff and students, and See Something Say Something awareness, to name a few.
3. We are compliant with the State of WI Act 143, which mandates the annual training of staff, the reporting of threats to law enforcement, the conducting of active assailant training, the creating of a school safety plan, to name a few.
4. We have wonderful relationships with our law enforcement partners, especially those that are in the Germantown School District that include the Germantown Police Department and the Washington County Sheriff’s Department for Rockfield and Amy Belle.
5. And finally, we have two School Resource Officers; one each at GHS and KMS, and both do a great job in keeping our kiddos safe.

Going Forward

1. God forbid we ever have an active shooter event here and if we do, I am 100% confident that what happened in Texas and in Florida will never occur here as our law enforcement partners will engage the shooter.
2. However, saying that, over the next couple of months I would like the board to consider all or parts of the following additional layering of security that are designed to further target harden our schools, adding more resources for our kids and to ensure that we are doing all we can in the area security to ensure that our kids go home safe and secure.

Items to Consider

1. Some of these items that I am going to talk about are forward thinking and are certainly out of the mainstream discussions, but as we did being the first school district in the state to address both common core and CRT, as thought leaders, I would like us to be the first district in the state to address these items publicly. I know that I am only one board member, but going forward, I would like the board to consider the following.
2. **Gun Free Zones** – Gun Free Zones do not work as the bad guys do not comply with it. As this is a federal law, I would like us to petition our lawmakers in Wisconsin to allow for the many responsible gun owners that conceal carry, to be allowed to carry in Gun Free Zones. I welcome that extra protection that this affords. If a bad guy can carry a gun in a Gun Free Zone, then I want good guy carrying too.
3. **Social Media Monitoring** – Both the school shooter in Texas and in Michigan telegraphed on social media their intentions. Systems for **monitoring** open source intelligence or publicly available social **media** posts are gaining popularity in K-12 education settings. Some **schools** and **school** districts are turning to **social media monitoring** as a response to the threat of mass shootings. Companies are marketing their **social media monitoring** services that focus on key words to provide additional tools to detect violent incidents. We should research this.
4. **See Something Say Something Awareness** – We have great kids at Germantown and based on past incidents, our kids do Say Something when they See Something. Saying that, I would like us to enhance our awareness program by participating in the State of WI, Department of Justice’s **Speak Up Speak Out** program that is available through the Office of School Safety. This program consists of an app (available in iOS and Android) that students can download onto their phone and immediately report matters via the press of a couple of buttons or via a phone call to their hotline.
5. **Mental Health App** – Self harm and violence against others have increased drastically because of the pandemic and government’s overreach of mandating that schools go virtual. It is apparent that the school shooters in Florida, Michigan and Texas needed help. Saying that, we need to create opportunities for our kids to immediately seek professional assistance and if they don’t feel comfortable talking to a fellow student, a teacher, or a counselor, they should be able to seek assistance via an app like Talkspace or similar provider, where the student can talk to a therapist in real time. We should research this.
6. **School Security Aid** – As an extra layer of defense and to support our SROs, I would like us to consider hiring school security aids for GHS and KMS. The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (HR-218) allows qualified retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm in any jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of any state or local law to the contrary, with certain exceptions. As our SROs are not in GHS and KMS 100% of the time, the School Security Aid would add another layer of defense for our students and support the SRO if there would be an active assailant event. I would like us to research this.
7. **Concealed Weapons Detection Systems** – As installing airport type security that consists of both magnetometers (aka metal detectors) and x-ray machines to maximize student thru put screening, would be a logistic nightmare and as such is not practical, we should research technology that is available today that detects concealed weapons on bodies and in bags. Detection systems such as these are used in sporting and concert venues and are set up outside of the venue and detect weapons before they can be conveyed into the building.
8. **Teachers/Staff Concealed Carry** – For those teachers and staff that want to volunteer and to carry concealed in our schools, we should let them, however, current Wisconsin law does not allow for that. In the past I was never a supporter of this, but after what occurred in Texas, I am now as this would provide an extra layer of defense. There are 28 states that allow this and Wisconsin should be one them. I would like the board to discuss this.
9. **Lock the Bad Guys Up** – The police do a great job in catching the bad guys, but we have activist prosecutors that brag about abolishing bail and with the low bail that they seek today, they have routinely put violent criminals back on the streets to commit more violent crimes. Then, when the bad guy does go to court, we have activist judges that are soft on crime providing weak sentences. We need stop these prosecutors and these judges. Our lawmakers need to create laws that will stop the revolving doors of justice and require mandatory high bail and strong sentences for violent crimes and for felon in possession of a firearm. Why? Because what is occurring today is not working and the bad guys continue to cause havoc on our community.
10. **Firearm Safety Training** – Finally, we should partner with qualified suppliers to facilitate firearm training for our community as I feel there is a gap here. This could include training on secure firearm storage, handgun fundamentals, skills practice and yes, mental awareness signs, what to look for and how to seek help.
11. Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts. I ask that going forward over the next couple of months, we discuss these items and have further conversations to strengthen our safety and security programs in our schools as we cannot allow what happened in Uvalde to occur here. Our kids and our teachers deserve to go home.

**End**