



YARMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Committed To Our Community"

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Michael J. Almonte
Chief of Police

To: US DOJ COPS Office, Secure Our Schools Grant committee
From: Nicholas R. Pasquarosa, Jr., School Resource Officer
Date: July 1, 2010
Re: School Safety Assessment Assurance

I write in response to the application requirement of conducting a school safety assessment within the past three years. My unit conducted the last large scale assessment at each school in our district. That survey was focused on emergency management policies and procedures and physical plant security. Regrettably that survey was conducted in 2006, outside the three year limit for grant consideration.

It is worth mentioning that the end result of the survey was the installation of integrated access control, camera surveillance and secure visitor management systems, the reconfiguration of the lobby area in an elementary and middle school, the development of a comprehensive emergency management plan for the school district and the formation of the school district's emergency management team. The effort was collaborative between the regional school district, the public safety agencies serving it and, members of the business community.

Smaller scale assessments are less formal but are conducted continually throughout the year. Those come in the form of drills, surveys, procedural review meetings and planning for improvements in physical security should resources unexpectedly become available.

The next large scale safety and security assessment will be done in conjunction with the accreditation process conducted by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC.) This negates the need for additional funds to develop a separate process. While the accreditation is specific to the high school we will be developing a survey and assessment process that satisfies both the NEASC and our internal needs for a solid assessment of all of our schools. The NEASC inspection is scheduled to take place in March of 2012. Data for the accreditation is collected between now and that date. Our safety assessment is scheduled to be conducted in mid-2010/2011 school year, within the grant period. The results will be submitted to the NEASC at the time of their visit. We will already be using the results as a road map for improving the safety of our schools.

The assessment will encompass all aspects of the school environment relative to safety and security, such as:

1. Use of existing security equipment
 - a. Cameras

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- b. Doors
 - c. Door locks / Access Control
 - d. Visitor Management System
- 2. Need for addition of security equipment
- 3. Repair of security equipment
- 4. Physical layout of the plant as it relates to the most secure environment possible
- 5. Review and update of the Emergency Management Plan (annual)
- 6. Faculty and Staff training
- 7. Student training
- 8. Student Handbook review
- 9. School administrative investigation procedures
- 10. Emergency communications
 - a. Internal
 - b. External
- 11. Perception of safety and order in school
 - a. Students
 - b. Parents
 - c. Faculty & staff

We will invite to participate, the stake holding public safety agencies, administrators, teachers, the complex supervisor, parents, students, security consultants and other interested parties or groups such as Parent's Advisory Councils and School Councils. Some will be included in formal meeting setting others will be asked to anonymously answer relevant questions developed to glean a clear sense of the general perception of the school's climate, its approach to safety and security and effectiveness of remedies to breaches of safety and good order.

I believe our commitment to school safety and security is second to none. That is because all that we do in support if it is the result of a longstanding partnership that brings the separate and distinct missions of those representing the various disciplines into laser like alignment on the common goal of keeping our kids safe at school. No one agency can do it as effectively on its own. No one branch provides as much shade as the whole tree.

We look forward to next year's survey and the results, guidance and insight it will bring our team.

Thank you for your consideration.