

Questions and Answers- Community Forum

Below is a compilation of questions and responses from the School Safety and Student Well Being Community Forum. The responses were from panel members representing the Orange County Department of Education, OC Behavioral Health, HB Fire, HB Police, HBCSD District Safety Committee and staff as it pertained to their area of expertise.

What types of curriculum are being implemented at each of our schools that focuses on student leadership, self- esteem, problem solving and being a responsible student? What resources are available from a mental health perspective?

Second Step is our base Social Emotional Learning program. We will be updating the program with its current edition this fall.

Student leadership programs exist at each school. Examples include Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL), Student Ambassadors, Student Council, Associated Student Body (ASB), and Where Everybody Belongs (WEB). Additionally, schools have various student clubs and afterschool programs which not only develop leadership skills but also citizenship, responsibility, and problem solving.

For mental health resources, our schools have Phoenix House, which is part of the Orange County Behavioral Health grant.

- **Classroom Prevention** An evidence-based character education program for 5th – 8th grade students comprised of 15 – 30 minute lessons that occur one to two times per week throughout the school year.
- **Student Based Intervention** Small groups of students, referred by staff, parents, or administrators, are invited to participate in group activities to address issues such as bullying and prevention of at risk behaviors.
- **Family Intervention** Parenting and life-skills training sessions will address issues such as family relationships and communication as requested by school or district.

Outreach Counseling interns also provide family, small group, and individual counseling through a consent process.

In many school shootings, the perpetrator has a similar profile. Once identified, what are some resources to reach out and get them help.

HBCSD has a suicide/threat assessment team and protocols. Once identified, they are assessed using a standardized assessment tool to determine if they are a low risk, moderate risk, or high risk. Each of the risk levels requires a different response.

Orange County has a referral system by accessing OCLinks, a county navigation tool. You can also call 855-OCLINKS. There is also a book of county resources from the OC Health Care Agency but it is over 200 pages so your best bet is through OC LINKS website. If you have private insurance, you can also be referred through your insurance company.

Does HBCSD plan to hire a full time licensed school psychologist per school site to help our students deal with the demands of being an adolescent in our 21st century?

HBCSD had overstaffed by one school psychologist in 2017/2018. We are within the average staffing as everyone else in surrounding districts. We will continue to staff our school psychologists. Assignments vary year to year. We are looking at grants to secure additional funding for personnel. Human resources needed to notify staff prior to March 15. When money or grant funding is available, staffing is reinstated.

What steps are being done to educate parents about social emotional issues and needs??? Do parents know the language teachers and staff are using to discuss with their children at home.

We have offered parent education nights; however, this has become a topic of interest by our parents. We also work with our partners for referrals and can set up trainings based on requests. Please notify our Education Services office to request parent workshop topics.

We will implement some pre and post safety drill language to communicate with parents to follow up at home. A recommendation from the District Safety Committee is to have consistency in training and response across sites.

What efforts are being made to collect data around how sober living homes are affecting the neighborhood and school safety? Are there any measures in place to regulate number of sober living homes near our schools?

State and federal laws govern sober living homes under the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is an area that is difficult to address. In Huntington Beach, there are over 50 known sober living homes. If there are less than six (6) people living in the home, then the home is unregulated as the occupants are considered as "roommates." The sober living homes usually have counselors who are former addicts themselves. HBPD collects data on loitering, smoking, illegal parking, nuisance. If the home has more than six (6) occupants and if licensed, HBPD can investigate and can inspect. If you have concerns, please report the nuisance at the non-emergency phone number at 714.960.8811. The report is sent to the area commander and can be investigated for code enforcement.

Additionally, HBPD has joined with the District Attorney in a task force targeting insurance fraud, so HBPD is also addressing it through civil law and law enforcement. It won't change unless insurance companies start to change.

If there is a nuisance, call the police department. HBPD addresses this regularly. If you don't call, then HBPD is unable to address. Each call is logged and HBPD can then prioritize resources.

Has there been discussion about mandatory CPR training for all school staff members?

CPR/First aid training is required for some staff such as office staff, health clerks, bus drivers. CPR/First aid is not mandatory for every staff member. However we continue to offer district sponsored CPR/First aid training 3-6 times per year.

Is every school/classroom in the district equipped with enough to handle a lockdown for 6+ hours like every surrounding school that has been involved in an active shooter situation has had to do?

Our supply bins have been inventoried and has supplies to last for a 72 hour period in the event of a major emergency. Each school has a process to provide emergency supplies for individual students each year, whether that is through a fundraiser to provide a kit for each student, or students bring kits.

Schools also have emergency supplies in the classroom, such as a bucket filled with supplies such as toilet paper, sanitation supplies, etc.

Currently the schools with the highest Title I and EL population are without any air conditioning?

The four oldest schools in the district do not have air conditioning. When these schools were built, they were not built with A/C since A/C did not exist for schools. These schools are older schools in older neighborhoods.

What is the fencing timeline?

Architects have walked all school sites. Originally, fencing was scheduled in the latter part of the bond implementation and as school projects were implemented. The architects have moved up fencing as a priority due to recent events. Dwyer and Hawes have fencing plans within their modernization project.

Projects not on the immediate list are being assessed for scope of project. Larger projects need to be submitted to Division of State Architect and require approval. At this time, we do not know the total cost of fencing. Then there is the issue of funding versus cost and we will need to prioritize. Exact dates and timelines are too premature to determine.

Eader Elementary is still wide open to the public and has had a handful of coyote lockdowns this year. When will it be getting the necessary safety gates to enclose the school?

The city of Huntington Beach has a coyote management plan. You can report sightings of coyotes- report online, drop a pin online, or call. Depending on the sighting, Fish and Wildlife will remove coyote. Go to <https://www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/> click on "I Want to..." and type in coyotes. The plan lays out how the city will respond.

Fencing isn't necessarily going to solve coyotes from being on campuses. Call 9-1-1 if a coyote is on campus. County animal control will come to remove the coyote.

Our communities are meeting spots for our schools. Fencing could change the school atmosphere and community. How do we balance between having a welcoming school campus and having a facility which is secure?

Patterns at school sites will need to change to address ingress/egress patterns, traffic patterns, and the security on campus. We will need to train on new exits and entrances and re-work the run, hid, fight plans to include the fences. Division of State compliance, style of gates which may include panic bars. The fencing needs to also allow access for maintenance and operations machinery in addition to allowing the surrounding community use and access. We also need to make sure that the fencing is not vandalized. When students are not at school, we will need to provide access. Playgrounds are used by the public. This will be an ongoing effort and will need cooperation from all stakeholders to ensure that our schools remain inviting yet secure.

Which sign in system is the district going to adopt next year? Raptor technologies? Another system?

We have examined and researched four visitor management systems. Two of the four systems have the ability to check background of visitors. No decision has been made at this time.

Are metal detectors being considered?

Metal detectors are not being considered. We look at the schools, its surroundings, physical layout, surrounding community, and threats/vulnerabilities. Metal detectors are seen in urban environments and provide a false sense of security.

Has HBCSD hired a professional consultant that specializes in school safety to evaluate each school site?

Yes, for security. Safety and security have been moved to a priority one project within Measure Q. Project scope will determine which fencing projects go through Division of State Architect and which don't. We are moving as quickly as we can.

How can you ensure our children's safety at every school during all the construction?

School site staff will learn new protocols. School site staff will also do table top discussions with run, hide, fight, where and what exits exist, and identify contingency plans. The District Safety Committee will be working with School Site Councils and site principals to determine alternatives and contingencies.

I just heard on the radio today that a new spending bill was approved to fund OC schools for active shooter training. Will we see this here in HB soon?

At this time, we do not know the funding amount. It is too premature to say as this was just released this morning (June 5). We will work with Orange County Department of Education and law enforcement to determine how to access this training.

Are there any changes being made to Smith and Dwyer in regard to location of office? Visitors have to cross almost the entire campus before they check in.

When Smith goes through Measure Q renovations, the office will relocate.

Dwyer has no plans to change the office location. When it was originally built, the office was the central area directly accessible from the street. As the community grew and needs change, other buildings were built around Dwyer. With the Measure Q project, a direct line/point of contact will funnel visitors directly to the office.

Are security cameras a priority?

There are security cameras at Sowers, Dwyer, Eader, Perry, Hawes, and Peterson. For sites currently without cameras, as funding is secured these schools will have plans for cameras.

Why did you fail to notify three schools within a 1 mile radius during the recent bank robbery?

HBPD works with schools. HBPD determines if a lockdown is needed based on the level of crime and outstanding suspects. HBPD assigns the SRO on the school campus to consult and collaborate with the school face- to- face.

In this particular case, HBCSD communicated as soon as we were notified and at no time did HBPD indicate that HBCSD schools needed to shelter in place.

What is the recommendation during school hours as far as having classroom doors locked?

We do have protocols to keep doors locked; however, that is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to follow through. This means they keep their badges and keys with them at all times. All schools have sliding lockblocks which allows them to keep the door locked, but able to be opened if a student goes to the restroom. In a matter of seconds, the doors can be secured with the slide.

How does one become part of the District Safety Committee?

The purpose of the District Safety Committee is to assist schools. Right now it is made up of experts in the field- two defensive/SWAT members, two fire representatives, board members, classified and certificated staff. This group is in the process of reviewing each site plan from their respective perspectives/expertise.

The District Safety Committee meetings are public meetings. Call the office of the Superintendent for dates.

Please address what the school is doing to screen for access to firearms? What is being asked of the parents?

Addressing firearms is not a California approved topic or part of any curriculum.

There are storage requirements for firearms to limit access as well as state restrictions. Huntington Beach Union High School District offers parent education on various topics so this may be one to discuss. PTA also has a resource link to www.BeSmartforKids.org to help parents be responsible with handling of firearms.

“See something, say something” – We work with agencies to support and investigate. If you see something, say something. There are various modalities to report, such as on line through Safe to Speak (available at our middle schools).

An incident earlier this year where we were notified before school started about a possible threat. HBCSD contacted HBPD who went to the home to determine access to firearms. HBCSD and HBPD referred the student to counseling and conducted a family assessment.

Anonymous email and social media threats are becoming rampant. As soon as HBPD learns of a threat, they identify the student, visit the home, search the home and vehicles, check databases and work with OCIAC (Orange County Intelligence Agency Coalition) for intelligence and school threats. HBPD works closely with the FBI task force for every threat, social media/ online resources and thorough vetting.

AC with school safety in mind?

Eader and Perry were modernized in the early 2000s but did not modernize windows so we have installed fans which helps. In this modernization, windows will be a priority.

How many School Resource Officers (SROs) are there in the District?

HBPD has hired two full time SROs for the city to cover 44 schools. They work closely with schools. However, with the changing times, the response to schools is a responsibility for all HBPD.

How is social media accounts being monitored?

“See Something, say something.” We can’t monitor students’ cell phones as their personal property. We do have blocks and filters to monitor students while using HBCSD owned devices and while on campus.

We also have anonymous reporting at both middle schools with Safe to Speak.

Do staff and SROs receive “Stop the Bleed” training?

HBPD have received training every two years with the fire department.

What is the cost to re-implement Second Step at each of our schools?

A one-time cost of approximately \$25,000 for elementary schools. Additionally, we will pilot Second Step for our preschool and middle schools to determine future purchase.