

**Santa Fe Public Schools
Board of Education
Minutes of a Study Session
Educational Services Center
February 5, 2009**

IA. Call to Order

Ms. Angelica Ruiz, Vice President of the Board of Education, called the safety and Security Study Session to order at 4:03 p.m. Others present were: Mr. Richard Polese, Secretary; Ms. Mary Ellen Gonzales, Board Member; Mr. Frank Montano, Board Member; and Ms. Bobbie Gutierrez, Superintendent. Mr. Martin Lujan, President, was excused.

IB. Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico Flag

Ms. Ruiz asked Mr. Polese to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Salute to the New Mexico Flag.

IC. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Polese made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Gonzales seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion carried.

II. Safety and Security Presentation

Ms. Gutierrez acknowledged there were many members present from the District Safety Committee. She thanked everyone for coming. She thanked Mr. Doug Conwell for growing the committee.

Dr. Morgan welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. His presentation included the following information:

- **2009 School Board Proposed Police in the Schools Resolution**
 - To provide positive interaction between law enforcement and school communities to reduce criminal activity and develop a positive and cooperative relationship.
- **Safety Improvements to Date**
 - Surveillance Cameras Installed
 - 2004 – Alameda, Capshaw, DeVargas and Ortiz
 - 2009 – Additional installation: Alameda, Capshaw, DeVargas, Capital and Santa Fe High
 - Security Enhancement
 - 2009 – New Fence Installation at Santa Fe High and Agua Fria
Alternative pick-up /drop off routes at Agua Fria and Larragoite
More secure automatic gates in testing at Santa Fe High
 - School messenger system
 - After hours “on call” emergency personnel
 - Board Policy additions
 - Civility Policy #161
 - Rights and Responsibilities #336
 - Compulsory School Attendance #300
- **2009 Legislative Requests**
 - Security cameras for Chaparral, Ramirez Thomas, Sweeney, Kearny and Pinon
 - Fencing for Capital High, De Vargas and Agua Fria
 - Capturing Kids Hearts
- **Report on District Code of Conduct Violations**
- **Report on District Hearing Information**
- **Report on Requests to Leave SFPS for GED**

Ms. Ruiz asked if the number of requests from Hispanic students was in proportion to the District's student population. Dr. Morgan agreed that is was.

- **Associated Securities Industries (ASI)**

- SFPS – from “improving to incredibly safer”
- Governor Richardson’s Senate Executive message No. 174 requires emergency drills
- Meet and comply with all federal and state safety standards to manage shelter in place, lockdowns, and evacuations
- SFPS exceeded standard – managed, exercised and became competent in safety exercises
- Team Event – ASI, Executive Team and school administrators committed to exceeding national standard to keep SFPS schools safe
- Incident Report Data

Mr. Montano asked for clarification on the numbers on the Incident Report. Dr. Morgan answered previously only fourth and fifth degree violations were reported, but now all of the incidents are reported. Ms. Gutierrez stated they are asking for all the incidents because they can lead to level four and five incidents and that is why data is important.

Dr. Morgan stated what they are doing is making Santa Fe Public Schools much safer than it was four or five years ago.

Ms. Gutierrez stated they have had training with incident command. She stated last year with the bus accident, they all knew what their roles were. Her job was to be at the site of the accident and the Superintendent’s job was to be at the District office to direct staff and deal with media. She stated after a serious bomb threat they realized they needed a fence at Santa Fe High to control the situation.

Mr. Montano asked what the Superintendent’s role was during incident. Ms. Gutierrez answered her role is to direct staff and go to the hospital if necessary. Mr. Montano clarified that even though the Superintendent is at the District office, the Superintendent is the decision maker. Ms. Gutierrez agreed she would direct staff as she gets information. She stated they used to fight with the police and fire department, but now they turn control of the incident over to the emergency responders and take orders from them.

Mr. Polese asked if they were comparing same timeframe for 07-08 and 08-09 on the Incident Report. Dr. Morgan stated it was the whole year for 07-08 and year to date for 08-09.

- **Restorative Justice**

Dr. Morgan asked Ms. Mary Beth Brady share information about the program. Ms. Brady explained what Restorative Justice is:

- Is a process responding to conflict and problems that involves all participants in figuring out what happened, how it affects individuals and community
- Focuses on repairing harm – making things right and rebuilding relationships
- Is an alternative to traditional school discipline – a philosophy for addressing school infractions
- Includes Voice with a Choice – Mediation Classes at Capital and Santa Fe High Schools
- Has programming at the following schools – Alameda, Capshaw, DeVargas, Ortiz, Capital, Santa Fe High, El Dorado, Gonzales, Salazar, Pinon and Wood Gormley

Dr. Morgan asked Ms. Mary Louise Romero to speak. Ms. Romero asked students from the restorative Justice programs to stand and be recognized. Ms. Romero stated:

- The State is starting a new mediation program and brought 25 people to see how the program works.

- Leadership New Mexico asked them to do a presentation at Warehouse 21 and has offered to support their students.
- They have started a new Restorative Justice program at Ortiz Middle School and Capital High School.
- **Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools**

Mr. Conwell's presented the following information:

- Priorities for School Year 2008-09 are:
 - Adoption of National Incident Management System guidelines by Board of Education
 - Hazards and vulnerabilities assessment tool for baseline data
 - Crisis response Plan English/Spanish translation
 - Improve plan for special needs students, staff and families who speak other languages
 - Train counselors and nurses in trauma recovery
 - Pandemic infectious disease plan
 - Implement two-way radios throughout District
 - Improve evacuation drill response time

Mr. Montano asked if the District did not already have two-way radios. Mr. Conwell answered the District has some radios, but now they will have radios at all the sites.

- Emergency Preparedness 2009
 - District received \$248,355 from a US Department of Education Grant
 - Incident Command System (ICS) Training
 - All principals, administrators completing ICS-100 for schools
 - All other staff encouraged to take course
 - Deputy Superintendent, Chief Operations Office, Director of Community Relations and Emergency Management participated in FEMA training in Maryland 2008
 - Drills – All schools, administrative buildings, private/charter partners completing state requirements
 - Debriefing following each drill and incident

Mr. Montano asked Mr. Conwell if working with the charter schools is part of the grant. Mr. Conwell answered yes, but the District is further along than the other schools and has some things in place that the charter and private schools do not have like school messenger. Ms. Gutierrez stated that now St. Michaels is participating.

Mr. Polese asked what is involved in ICS training. Ms. Ruiz stated the Superintendent Gutierrez suggested having a Study Session on ICS training.

Dr. Morgan stated debriefing after an incident is one of the most important things.

- **Additional Programs, Projects and Relationships**
 - Safe Schools and Healthy Students Grant – Student Wellness
 - Received a \$1.4 million dollar grant for five years
 - Provides counseling, support, preventative measures
 - Santa Fe Gang Task Force
 - Juvenile Probation and Parole Office
 - Teen Court of Santa Fe County

Dr. Morgan asked Ms. Jennifer Romero to present. Ms. Romero's presentation included:

- Full screening program, reality program and police report referrals
- Mediation
- Counseling

- Community Service
- Reduced repeat offenders
- **Progress and Next steps**
 - Study Session - September 21, 2006
 - Implementation
 - Training
 - Develop and implement systems
 - Study Session – February 5, 2009
 - Continue with training and systems alignment
 - Cameras and fencing
 - Monitor HB 240 – Public School Security Infrastructure Fund
 - Discipline being enforced early
 - Continue with monitoring of discipline reports and data
 - Continue monitoring recidivism

Ms. Ruiz thanked Dr. Morgan and everyone that worked on this report.

Ms. Gonzales asked if the City of Santa Fe staff has gone through NIMS training. Mr. Conwell answered that emergency responders have gone different kinds of systems training.

Mr. Polese thanked everyone for their work and for the presentation.

Mr. Montano stated with all the training and grants they have received, they have a very professional group of people doing this. They are experiencing less discipline problems than in years past. Restorative Justice allows students to watch their own. He thanked the students for their participation and said they should be proud of the work they do. He suggested they have this presentation once a year to stay on top of it. He stated he had asked for a resolution to have police on campus, but it seems to him that they have a pretty good handle here.

Ms. Gutierrez thanked Mr. Montano for his comments. She stated they need to continue to build on the relationships with emergency responders in the community and listen to the voices of the young adults. She stated she had a conversation with Ms. Kathy McCormick from the City regarding the police housing and the City has placed a freeze spending because of economic turn of events. She stated she thought it would be good for the Board Members to understand the training that District staff goes through and suggested they put an Incident Command System Study Session on the schedule for June.

Ms. Gonzales stated there is a Safe Schools/Healthy Students Committee coordinating the grant that the District received. Mr. Dan Burke, Prevention Coordinator facilitates the meetings. She stated the committee will be giving regular reports to the Superintendent. She stated it is an enormous grant that they are happy to have.

Ms. Ruiz thanked everyone for their work. She thanked Ms. Brady and Ms. Romero, stating they have seen through the presentation how Restorative Justice was cultivated and evolved and the progress their work has made in the schools.

III. Public Forum

Ms. Robin Chavez, Principal of Alameda, talked about how effectively Restorative Justice, student court, the security guard, Mr. Olivares and the drills have come together at her school. She stated they have seen the childrens' behavior improve. The student court program has drastically reduced referrals. She stated Safety Committee, Juvenile Probation, Parole Office and the Gang Unit have all done such good work.

Students from Restorative Justice brought messages from students in the program and passed them to the Board Members and Executive Team Members.

Ms. Katherine Hinshaw stated she represents Restorative Justice at Santa Fe High and she explained how much it has helped her to grow.

Mr. Rene Tavarez stated he was a participant in Restorative Justice first and they helped him get out of trouble. He stated the program has done so much for him.

Ms. Alix Dixon stated she doesn't take Restorative Justice anymore but it changed her life. She stated she learned communication skills and has seen the transformations in the students in the program. She stated at first she did not think it would do much, but it does change students' lives and helps them so much.

Mr. Manuel Chavez stated he had joined the program a couple of weeks ago and made a quick connection with the students. He stated it is good to have a place for the students to go talk about what is going on and work out their conflicts. He stated they would appreciate any and all support they can get from the Board and District administration.

Ms. Ruiz thanked the students for talking in front of the group.

Ms. Gonzales stated she has been very supportive of Restorative Justice. She thanked Dr. Morgan, Superintendent Gutierrez and the high school principals for arranging for Restorative Justice students to receive credit for being in the class. She stated their teachers are fantastic.

Ms. Brady stated middle school students in the program also receive credit.

Mr. Polese read a quote from one of the Restorative Justice students "this class has shown me who I really am."

IV. Adjournment

Ms. Gonzales made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Montano seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Martin Lujan, President

Attested by:

Richard Polese, Secretary

Minutes approved on: February 17, 2009