



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Indiana Secured School Safety Board
Indiana Government Center South
302 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Conference Center Room 29

1. **This meeting of the Indiana Secured School Safety Board was opened by Chairman Stephen Cox at 1:38 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2020:**

(a) Board Members present at the meeting:

Stephen Cox, Chairman
Eric Bowlen
Scott Mellinger
Devon McDonald
Doug Carter
Stephen Balko
William Anthony

(b) Board Members not present at the meeting:

(c) The following support staff were present during the meeting:

Rusty Goodpaster, Secured School Safety Director, IDHS
John Brown, Deputy Director, PTEG, IDHS
Jeff Groh, Chief Operating Officer, IDHS
Kim Snyder, Grants Management Section Chief, IDHS
Amanda Carver, Grant Coordinator
Jonathan Whitham, General Counsel, IDHS
David Hosick, Chief Public Information Officer, IDHS
Lee Everett, Sr. IT Project Manager, IDHS
Beth Turner, Grants Compliance Monitor
Bolanle Oladokun, Grants Coordinator
Rachel Cosner, SSGrants Coordinator
Emily Martinez, SSGrants Coordinator
Ada Knight, SSGrants Coordinator
Tonya Resler, Grants Coordinator
Bonnie Sims, PTEG Administrative Assistant, IDHS

2. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum 138**

Stephen Cox, Chairman, stated all board were present and determined quorum was present.

3. **Introduction of New Members – Chairman Stephen Cox**

Stephen Cox, Executive Director of IDHS, welcomed everyone and had new members introduce themselves and their role. Mr. Cox started, stating his new position as Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, stating he came from the State Fire Marshall's office where he was for 2 ½ months. Prior to that position, he was the South Bend Fire Chief for about 26 years at the fire department and has a background in EMS and fire service.

Bill Anthony, Assistant Chief Counsel of Advisory, with the Office of Attorney General. He is replacing Deputy Bell, who recently retired as the Attorney General's designee and looks forward to working with everyone.

Steve Balko, Director of School Safety, with the Indiana Department of Education. He is taking over for Dr. Folks who recently left the department.

4. **Approval of August 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Steve Cox motioned for approval. Doug Carter moved to approve. Eric Bowlen made the second. Motion approved and carried.

5. **Final Update on Options Charter School – Carmel's Common School Fund request – Rusty Goodpaster**

Rusty Goodpaster gave an update on the request for funding of \$80,645 from Options Charter School – Carmel. He had reached out to them several times and they never did reply. Since he never heard back, the request is now to be considered closed. They had requested funding from the Common School Fund; however, some items mirrored the SSSG application. Rusty stated that if they did decide they wanted to go through with the request anytime in the future, he would inform them that they would need to re-apply and submit a new application. The matter is now closed.

6. **Update on Legislation relative to SSSG – Jonathan Whitham**

There are some bills that are still active – this is the final week for Session until Second Chamber. Unless another set of bills are presented, these should go away and are not scheduled for hearings. However, they are interesting to look at by the end of this week. They have not been heard and have not been voted on.

There are two bills that are still moving, but have not been heard:

Bill 1028 – Firearms Training for Teachers: This one is similar to one from last year. It is in the Senate and it is moving.

Bill 1192 – Seat Belts in School Buses:

Bill 1354 - School Mental Health hearing: No hearing on this one. They are using our funds to use for this – but not moving.

Bill 1426: This bill is for use directly with the SSSB general funds across the board; not moving – don't expect it will again. It is simple enough that someone could try to slip it into another bill.

Bill 233 – Resource for School Officers: was moving; was resurrected for special SRO training for anyone working in a school; fund to pay for law enforcement officers; It had a hearing and a vote, but failed - don't think it will come back up, but will watch it pretty closely and see if it shows up in another bill.

Two Bills that are still moving:

Bill 246 – Mental Health Services: It is something that is on the Governor’s agenda this year. It has passed with a vote of 50-0; so, it will move over to the House early next week; contains some of the language we introduced last year with Threat Assessment. In order for us to issue school funds, they would have to certify with the application that they had developed a relationship of referral with a Mental Health Service provider; submission is before July 1, 2021. On the application, they will check a box stating they have a relationship with a provider that we can directly refer them to in or outside of the school district for mental health treatment. We anticipate it to continue moving.

Senate Bill 263 – Education and Career Development – Specialized Weapons Training: this has a hearing tomorrow, January 29th. This is another specialized weapons training bill. It will require any teacher in the school to go through a very specific course set of trainings with standards that is all laid out in the bill. CGI to fund. Doug Carter asked who is conducting the training and who is the author? It is Hullman. It is combined with other bills from last year. Devon McDonald stated we are watching this one closely and have several cautions about it. Doug Carter stated that it has the firearms training, how to handle a weapon, marksmanship, closed quarters, holding, etc. But then has very specific training such as how to cope with pulling the trigger, legal consequences, and very specific with items that may have been listed in the language from last year. Though language not entirely clear and way it is structured makes it sound like anyone who wants to carry a sidearm can go and take this training and petition to the school to approve. It also includes language pertaining to not being able to shoot a participant during drills and blocking and barricading techniques. Training is open to administrators, janitors, educators - basically everyone. The requests also include asking the school board to pay for the school personnel to take this training. It is up to the school board to decide who will be trained. Rusty stated that Homeland Security would be the ones who determine who will qualify. It would have to be presented by the school board to this board and they would be the ones to determine who is qualified. Several agreed that this bill is a concern. The hearing is January 29th.

7. Discussion on definition of Threat Assessment as pertains to SSSG eligibility – Rusty Goodpaster

What is a definition of the threat assessment to determine eligibility for the fund? The intent is if you look at what we put in the NOFO last year, keeping in mind that the language does say that the grant funds can be used in a threat assessment each bill and the specifics of the bill. The same language of a threat assessment needs to be used for each building being assessed. We are looking at a minimal of establishing eligibility that they would have to document in some form at least someone come in and evaluate each building within the school corporation. We gave information relative to if they wanted to do more of what the threat assessment includes such as personal behavior, etc. With this current language we would like to keep it at a minimal requirement would be if they submit a document that they had had the threat assessment. We would like also, would like to keep it that it is their decision, unless the board wants to do something different, and our legal language from last year. It would be their decision on how in depth that threat assessment is, and who is qualified to do that threat assessment. Unless someone can tell me, I don’t know of any national organization that certifies you in threat assessment. I would say that they have to be certified by this board in order to qualify. There is a long range of that. Our intent would be to put similar language in there and then some simple language relative to “please upload your school board approved threat assessment policy” or something like that, so that when we get the request we can see that the bare minimum of the threat assessment bill has been completed. Need to look more into who is qualified to do those. My recommendation is to leave it with them to get with their legal team and experts to determine of

the person is qualified to do threat assessments. They can use the grant funds for someone to come in and do a complete threat assessment if they want. However, they need to understand that at the minimal they need to have a qualified person come in and do a threat assessment of each building and that makes you eligible for a grant.

Asked for feedback from the Board: Doug Carter spoke suggesting that we don't try to "reinvent the wheel". That if they already have to a staff person or specialist who can conduct the threat assessment, they can use them. Also, that there is not a generic document being passed from school to school and just non-specific answers. Rusty suggested that we push back to them and their legal teams regarding a liability. Asking Steve if there are school safety specialist that they feel can address the needs to do the threat assessment for each building. Also, if they are looking for a specialist there are a lot of free possibilities within the local community, who might be qualified and volunteer to conduct the threat assessments for the schools free of charge. Steve Balko commented that they have been encouraging schools to have that collaborating effort with the local community such as police, fire, EMS, etc. along with the school personnel and district to evaluate what is need in their specific areas.

Amanda Carver commented from the grant aspect, that don't know what the threat assessment requirements themselves are, but that it is going to be required by a certain date, of what would be acceptable documentation to make a determination on approve grant funds. We can look at the next meeting at suggestions on what will determine grants saying yes to a request. Also, Jeff Groh commented on the question of will there be a maximum of funds they may apply for in this process. If everyone will need it, we may need to look at a sealing amount. Amanda added that need to also look at recurring costs. Is this something that will be conducted every year, then we will have those costs each year, or only every three. An acceptable date range would need to be included in the language of the grant. Also, Jeff added if there are new buildings being built then that will increase the cost.

8. Comments and Closing Remarks – Chairman Stephen Cox

Stephen Cox thanked everyone on the board for accepting and participating and look forward to working with everyone. Next meeting will be 4 – 6 weeks from now. Would like to have the Legislation completed.

Eric Bowlen added a comment – that in their district there have been instances with a person taking an Uber or Lift and getting dropped off in the vicinity of a school and then walking in the school. The question is how can we get this type of communication delivered to other schools quickly to make them aware and incorporate this in their best practices? Doug Carter stated it can be added to our school safety hub and report to the school safety site at in.gov directly. Stephen Balko commented that a step by step emergency sheet can be sent out, also the county school commission can send a notice out. Eric and Steve Balko will collaborate on this effort.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Stephen Cox requested a motion to adjourn. Doug Carter made motion; Eric Bowlen, second. Motion to adjourn carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.