



Notice is hereby given that the Indiana Secured School Safety Board  
will be meeting:

**May 10, 2021**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**TEAMS**

**AGENDA and MEETING MINUTES**

(Meeting Recorded)

**1. Call to order – Chairman Stephen Cox**

Director Stephen Cox called the meeting of the Secured School Safety Board to order at 1:34 p.m., Monday, May 10, 2021. He asked Rusty Goodpaster to do roll call.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum – Rusty Goodpaster**

Attendees present to establish a Quorum:

Steve Cox – present  
Steve Balko – present  
Devon McDonald - present  
Cody Reynolds – present  
Eric Bowlen – not present at time of roll call; present later.  
Doug Carter – not present at time of roll call; present later.  
Scott Mellinger – not present

*Four members present – Quorum established.*

**3. Secured School Safety Grant Update – Rusty Goodpaster**

**1. Update on Grants**

- a. Threat Assessment and MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with health provider

A communication was sent out regarding the requirement this year for applicants to have a Threat Assessment and MOU with a health provider included with their request for funds. These must be included in order for applicants to be eligible.

We have made applicants aware of the Threat Assessment for a couple of years and the MOU requirement has been communicated to applicants over the last year. Dave Hosick and the PIO office have assisted with sending out messaging, and Steve Balko helped us distribute informative materials to schools basically letting applicants know that there was going to be two newer questions added this year:

- Do you certify you have a Threat Assessment?
  - If yes, then they can move forward with the application.
  - If no, they will not be able to move forward with their application.
  
- Do you have an MOU with your health provider?

We are asking them to certify that they have one.

  - If yes, then they can move forward with the application.
  - If no, they will not be able to move forward with their application.

b. County School Safety Commissions

In the previous communication, we also reminded them that since the beginning of the grant, they must be in a county where there is a County School Safety Commission within that specific county. We have provided applicants with resources such as a MOU template that Bethany Ecklor with FSSA has developed that they can use and Steve Balko with IDOE has provided threat assessment resources. We have been answering questions from school applicants and pointing them in the right direction in an attempt to make it as easy as possible for applicants to meet this requirement.

We have been working with IDOE Christy Berger and FSSA Bethany Ecklor on some of the questions relative to the Student-Parent Support Services Plan including how to make it better in the future and ways to gather additional data. This plan does not affect the grant at this time.

c. Grant Budget

The Bill for the budget for the Secured School Safety Grant was just approved for \$19,010,000 for each of the next two years, which is the amount we will be funded.

d. Grant Submission Dates

- Opens June 1<sup>st</sup> for 30 days.
- Award letters go out by 1<sup>st</sup> of September.
- Performance period will be September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022.

e. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date for the SSSB will be early to mid-August, unless there are any issues with the grant that we need to meet earlier. The meeting in August will be the final approval meeting for the distribution of awards. An announcement and agenda will be sent in the coming months, as we do not have an exact date yet.

f. Reviewers

The SSSB bi-laws state that if a member is on the board by their position, like Director Cox with IDHS or Steve Balko, who is assigned by the Superintendent of Education, that you are to supply two people as reviewers for the grant process. This is just a notice to the board members to begin thinking about who you would want to assign that position. The only two members who do not need to are Sheriff Scott Mellinger and Eric Bowlen. All other board members are to have two people to assist. We will do a training for those people and will let them know about dates and more information at a later time.

Question: Does the two reviewers include the board member?

Answer: It can but does not have to. As long as there are two people.

g. Questions and Comments regarding the Grant Updates

Question: Steve Balko asked about the County Commissioners – “How are we/you verifying that a certain county’s County Commission is still in existence?” “We were made aware of a situation in which they might not have been as active as they had been alluding.

Answer: From Rusty Goodpaster – “The process would be if we get information that a county does not have a County Commission, or an active one, then we would look into that information further. If an applicant marked on their application that they are in a county with a County Commission and we find out otherwise, we would have to do an investigation to see if in fact there is not one or an active one. If there is not, then we would not reimburse the school for whatever was their grant processing. A suggestion would be to reach out to the county sheriff departments to see if they know if there is an active County Commission, as many are on the commission boards themselves.

**4. Request for an Advance from the Common School Fund (MSD Lawrence Township) – Rusty Goodpaster.**

**Vote for the recommendation only.**

I sent to each of the members a copy of MSD Lawrence Township’s application. Last July, we approved MSD Lawrence Township for a Common School Fund request. MSD Lawrence Township let us know at that time that they intended to ask for several additional funds. Our legal team of Jonathan Whitman, Kristi Shute and I talked with the State Board of Education and their staff to make sure everyone was in agreement. The funds are still available for the Common School Fund and there is nothing that would restrict a school corporation from requesting more than one advance from the Common School Fund, and thus everything was in agreement.

Therefore, they have submitted a second request for \$500,000. This project is district-wide in Lawrence Township and is for security, cameras, direct access for the local police including a public address and mass notification system for multi-media alerts, and additional safety and security needs. They stated they will probably ask for one more Common School Fund advance after this one, but that will then complete their requests. They do meet all of the requirements relative for the fund.

They have received grant funds from the SSSB grant previously and their project does restrict access to only those schools that expedite the notification of first responders and approved school security. Legally, we talked with the State Board of Education and they agree with staff to recommend approval for request.

This is only to approve *the recommendation* to approve the request for funds. Once the SSSB has voted and agreed, then Rusty Goodpaster forwards that *recommendation approval* to the State Board of Health and they have the final vote. If it is passed by State Board of Health, then they will work with the school district on a contract, and the loan itself. This Board is only to make sure that they have completed all the requirements and vote on the recommendation only.

Director Cox asked if there were any questions regarding the vote.

Hearing none – Director Cox asked for a motion to vote.

- **A motion to Vote to Approve by Steve Balko; it was seconded by Devon McDonald.**
- **Director Cox asked for a roll call vote.** Results were as follows:
  - Steve Cox – aye
  - Steve Balko – aye
  - Eric Bowlen – aye
  - Doug Carter – aye
  - Devon McDonald – aye
  - Cody Reynolds – aye
  - Scott Mellinger – absent

The ayes have it - **Motion passes.**  
Thank you everyone.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

From Rusty Goodpaster – this involves Eric Bowlen and Scott Mellinger only. The budget bill now notes that anyone on the board that is not a State employee – such as Director Cox – that they are available to receive a \$100/per day/per diem for their work on the board. If either Eric or Scott are interested in receiving that, they need to get in touch with Rusty and he will forward to them what the process is for receiving those funds. They may decline if so wish.

### **5. Comments and Closing remarks – Director Stephen Cox**

Cody Reynolds asked when the next State of Education meeting will be. Rusty Goodpaster replied that the next State Board of Education meeting is June 2<sup>nd</sup>. If this recommendation is not discussed on the agenda for that meeting, it should be at the next meeting on June 14, 2021.

Director Cox thanked everyone for the quick turn around and said we look forward to getting together again in August regarding the award letters that will be going out to those approved for the next grant.

## 6. Adjournment – Director Stephen Cox

Director Cox asked if there were any other comments. Hearing none, **Director Cox asked for a motion to adjourn:**

- **Motion to Adjourn by Devon McDonald; seconded by Cody Reynolds.**

Meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Next meeting in early – mid August.

### ATTENDEES:

Director Stephen Cox  
Rusty Goodpaster  
Devon McDonald  
Steven Balko  
Eric Bowlen  
Lt. Doug Carter  
Joe Bruzzese  
Amanda Carver  
Ada Knight  
Jonathan Whitman  
Tonya Resler  
Kristi Shute  
Elizabeth Turner  
Steven Balko  
Adam Thiemann  
Tessa Reed  
Elliot Anderson  
Rachel Cosner  
Dave Hosick  
Emily Martinez  
Bonnie Sims