

**The Cuero Independent School District
Safety and Security Committee
Cuero ISD Board Room
960 East Broadway
Cuero, TX 77954
Meeting, August 31, 2023 at 10:30 AM**

I. Call To Order

The meeting of the Cuero ISD Safety and Security Committee was called to order by Dr. Dyer on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at 10:30 AM in the Cuero ISD Conference Room located at 960 East Broadway.

II. Introductions / Attendance

The following members were present:

Shannon Parker, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Darrin Stansberry, Assistant Principal, Kim Fleener, Assistant Superintendent, MaryBeth Atzenhoffer, Counselor, Tami Brzozowski, Parent, James McCarter, Assistant Principal, Oscar Ray, Director of Technology, Oscar Garcia, Texas Department of Public Safety, David Nething, Texas Department of Public Safety, Heather Steward, Teacher, Egon Barthels, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Veronica Rios, Teacher, Jaime Dyer, Principal, Ruby Rodriguez, Director of Special Programs, Wanda Hays, District Nurse, Kathy F. Scott, School Climate Specialist, Courtney Schacherl, School Climate Specialist, Katie Bowen, Principal, Rudy Rocha, Assistant Principal, Lacy Timpone, School Climate Specialist, Steven Ellis, Cuero Police Department, Jessie Hernandez, Cuero Police Department, Crystal Hamilton, Director of Special Education, Katelin Womack, Transportation Coordinator, Sandra Hernandez, Food Service Director, Bridgette Cerny, Principal, Micah Dyer, Superintendent.

III. Open Forum

No public comments at this time.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mrs. Hays made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Mr. Ray. Motion carried.

V. Guardian Program - SROs Feedback

There were no SROs in attendance. Dr. Dyer shared that the district sent a school safety survey for campus staff to complete regarding armed personnel. Approximately 211 staff members completed the survey. Dr. Dyer shared a summary of the survey results: 16% do not want armed security; 80% do want armed security; 65% do not want to be trained for a guardian program; 35% are interested in guardian program training. Dr. Dyer also shared a summary of staff positive and negative comments. Mr. Henson expressed the negative comments were all valid questions and concerns; he agreed with the positive. Dr. Dyer explained the difference between training for a guardian program and school marshalls as compared to SROs. He shared the district is looking to strategically place lock boxes. Captain Hernandez reiterated that weapons of any kind would be locked and stored away, with no staff carrying. Dr. Dyer confirmed staff would not carry and explained the district is considering biometric lock boxes that will be strategically placed. Dr. Dyer stressed the district is working closely with the Cuero Police Department to fund SROs.

VI. Campus Drills Update

Mr. Rocha reported that a fire drill was completed on the 2nd day of school at High School and a lockdown drill is scheduled for September 14. Mrs. Rios reported a fire drill was completed at John C. French Elementary. Mrs. Dyer reported that Cuero Jr. High completed a fire drill on the 10th day of school. Mr. McCarter reported that Hunt Elementary drills have been scheduled for the school year with required drills completed.

VII. Campus Weekly Exterior Door Sweeps Update

Mr. Rocha reported that Cuero High School has completed all weekly door sweeps for the 128 exterior doors and that work orders are being completed. Mrs. Dyer reported that all weekly door sweeps have been completed at Jr. High School with a few needing to be addressed. Mrs. Rios reported weekly door sweeps have been completed at John C. French and that the 1st grade hallway door has been sticking. The door was checked again today and is functioning properly. Mr. McCarter reported that Hunt Elementary door sweeps have been completed each week.

VIII. TEA School Safety Legislative Updates

Dr. Dyer shared school safety legislative updates including House Bill 3 and the adopted minimum school safety standards which address exterior doors, mapping, fencing, and unsecured glass. A copy of the safety standards was distributed.

IX. Campus Safety Walk Through Coordinated by Cuero Fire Department

Mrs. Rodriguez shared that Captain Clint Morris with the Cuero Fire Department requested a day to complete a safety walk through utilizing the campus Knox boxes and would coordinate with Chief Ellis with the Cuero Police Department. The walk through was scheduled for September 18, 2023 which is a district staff development day.

X. Emergency Operations Plan Update

Mrs. Rodriguez shared that the Texas State Texas School Safety Center completed the EOP review and sent an email on Monday, April 24, 2023 with the findings. The findings state the district EOP basic plan, active threat annex, and active shooter appendix review is complete with no additional information required at this time. The committee completed the EOP annual review. EOP roles and responsibilities were updated.

XI. New Business Update

Dr. Dyer shared that during the 2nd week of school our district daycare had a fire alarm that went off during the early morning hours. A fan vent had caught on fire and smoke filled the building. The response time from the City of Cuero was great. The city manager, volunteers with the fire department, Cuero Police Department, and County Sheriff's Office arrived within 15 minutes.

Dr. Dyer stated campuses are always available for law enforcement and first responders to walk through and for training. Law enforcement and first responders are always welcome to utilize our facilities.

XII. Adjournment

Mrs. Timpone made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mrs. Dyer. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.