

**The Cuero Independent School District
Safety and Security Committee
Cuero ISD Board Room
960 East Broadway
Cuero, TX 77954
Meeting, April 4, 2023 at 11:00 AM**

I. Call To Order

The meeting of the Cuero ISD Safety and Security Committee was called to order by Dr. Dyer on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 11:00 AM in the Cuero ISD Conference Room located at 960 East Broadway.

II. Introductions / Attendance

The following members were present:

Dwayne Noack, Facilities Director, Bridgette Cerny, Principal, Egon Bartheis, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Wanda Hays, District Nurse, Oscar Ray, Technology Director, Allison Krauser, Counselor, Heather Stewart, Teacher, Doug Sethness, Community Member, Crystal Hamilton, Director of Special Education, Lacy Timpone, School Climate Specialist, William Jendrzey, Community Member, Jessie Hernandez, Parent, Lieutenant Jerome Hernandez, Cuero Police Department, Savannah Patten, Cuero Police Department, Courtney Schacherl, School Climate Specialist, Michael Varela, Cuero Emergency Medical Services, David Truman, Technology Director, Chief Steven Ellis, Cuero Police Department, Alex Reyes, Community Member, Officer Paul Leal, Cuero ISD SRO, Darrin Stansberry, Assistant Principal, Katie Bowen, Principal, Jaime Dyer, Assistant Principal, Kim Fleener, Principal, Dr. Pam Longbotham, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Micah Dyer, Superintendent, Ruby Rodriguez, Director of Special Programs, Billy Jordan, Cuero Regional Hospital.

III. Open Forum

Mr. Sethness stated there are no school resource officers at the elementary campuses and there should be at least one at each school; look at what happened in Nashville, TN recently. Put aside the things that are fancy and nice and provide our students and staff with protection with a Guardian Program. As a well trained veteran he will gladly volunteer his time.

IV. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

V. Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings for John C. French Elementary

Mrs. Rodriguez reported the Texas School Safety Center's Intruder Detection Audit for John C. French was completed. There were no findings and no subsequent corrective actions required from this audit.

VI. Intruder Detection Audit Report Findings for Cuero Junior High School

Mrs. Rodriguez reported the Texas School Safety Center's Intruder Detection Audit for Cuero Junior High School was completed. There were no findings and no subsequent corrective actions required from this audit.

VII. Campus Drills 2022-2023

Mrs. Krauser reported all drills have been completed at John C. French Elementary; Ms. Cerny reported all required drills have been completed at Hunt Elementary; Mrs. Bowen reported all drills are complete at Cuero Junior High School and will coordinate with Mrs. Hays to plan for an

emergency medical situation; Mr. Rocha reported 4 drills have been completed this semester with 1 shelter-in-place scheduled later this month in April at Cuero High School.

VIII. Behavioral Threat Assessments 2022-2023

Mrs. Timpone shared a total of 65 behavioral threat assessments have been completed since the start of the school year; 0 at John C. French Elementary; 13 threat assessments at Hunt Elementary with 4 suicide assessments; 8 threat assessments at Cuero Junior High School with 17 suicide assessments; 10 threat assessments at Cuero High School with 13 suicide assessments; one at the administration for a student who withdrew.

IX. Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Mrs. Timpone reported there will be a training for first responders on March 28, 2023; additional training will be scheduled in the near future. There will be 5 training sessions in the summer for 150 staff members.

X. Increasing Law Enforcement Presence On Campuses

Mrs. Fleener reported they are very happy at Cuero High School with their SRO presence; Mrs. Bowen reported the Cuero Junior High School has 2 full-time SRO who is retiring but another officer will be transitioning into that position; Ms. Cerny reported Hunt Elementary does not have an SRO presence on campus when they do have a need, SRO Leal is prompt to respond; CPOC is currently trying to pursue having an sRON on campus; DPS has not been frequently on campus as of late.

Chief Ellis reported it is getting hard to have law enforcement on campus. They are 3 officers short. We do our best but we need to fill the police department needs first. We need patrol on the streets. Dr. Dyer shared he has been in close contact with Lt. Hernandez; he understands there are shortages. The county sheriff's office is also very short staffed. Officer Patten questioned if the school has considered setting funds aside to hire additional school resource officers; there may be people who are not interested in being on patrol that may be interested in a full-time SRO salaried position. Chief Ellis stated the base price to outfit an officer is \$95,000 due to the officer needing to be provided with car and equipment - this would be a several year project that we would need to plan for; SRO Leal will be out beginning in September. Mrs. Stuart stated the CISD needs to work with the Cuero Police Department to plan and coordinate budgets.

SRO Leal discussed the Guardian Program; Chief Ellis stated there are several schools who have the Guardian Program including Hallettsville and Yoakum. Mr. Sethness asked what are the objections to having a Guardian Program at Cuero ISD? Mrs. Bowen responded that on behalf of what she experienced at Edna ISD, the realistic time and cost is at least one year planning plus ammunition and fees. Officer Patten asked if the district has sought out information from other ISDs that have the Guardian Program? Dr. Dyer responded that he himself came from a district with a Guardian Program and completely understands how the program works and operates. Chief Ellis shared there are a lot of safety measures the district can put in place; Cuero High School is huge; the Guardian Program is something the district really needs to consider and plan for. SRO Leal stated having an sRO or Guardian Program might help people feel more safe at the district and apply to fill positions. Mrs. Stewart stated community members want to know why we don't have a Guardian Program in place.

Officer Patten made a motion for SROs to investigate the possibility of having a Guardian Program at Cuero ISD. Seconded by Mrs. Timpone. Motion carried.

SROs will present information at the next CISD Safety & Security Committee meeting.

XI. Texas School Safety Center Review of Emergency Operations Plan & Annexes

Mrs. Rodriguez reported the Texas School Safety Center is conducting a review of the district's EOP Basic Plan, Active Threat Annex, and Active Shooter Appendix. She uploaded the documents for review and will report the findings when the review is complete.

XII. New Business Update

Mr. Varela with the Cuero Emergency Medical Services stated he is working on major entry points for the district campuses; they are going to build map binders for all EMS drivers.

Mr. Sethness provided a brief update to the committee on what his role was as an officer in the military.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Jordan made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Ray. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.