



Arlington CCPTA
School Safety
Subcommittee
(proposed)

November 26, 2018

Background

- The Taylor School Safety Task Force was created in the wake of the tragic school shooting at Marjorie Stone Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, at the time the most recent and visible of multiple school shootings in the last several years, which include communities like ours that were considered “safe” until their tragic incidents.
- Principal Pellegrin and then PTA President Stacy Reed responded to concerned parent emails by hosting a special PTA session with SRO Tiffanie Haag. Dozens of concerned parents learned about existing safety practices and raised some concerns, not all related to active shooter situations.
- A few parents convened afterward and established a group of nearly 20 to keep the conversation and progress going with administration.

**It can happen
anywhere.**

**What can we do
to reduce our risk?**

Who We Are

- Tara Teaford
 - Mother of 2 Taylor students
 - Organizer of Taylor Task Force
 - Active member of Moms Demand Action Arlington chapter
 - Education-themed business owner

Additional Taylor Parents & Task Force Members	
Lisa McCarty	Danusha Chandy
Kirstin Pickle	Jason Garfield
Joe Miscione	Dana Milburn
Jay Honigstock	Bette Flentje
Kirsten Kulis	Kristen Shattuck
Patricia Teck Seggerman	Christa Mansur
Peter Fallon	Elise Nelson
Carrie Dunn	Rita Jensen
Stacy Reed	Wendy Kramer

2018 Task Force Objectives with APS

- Engage in direct and meaningful discussion to make progress on this issue.
- Emphasize importance of funding for future budget discussions.
- Impact immediate action and spend allocation at Taylor and APS.
- Offer our activism to achieve our shared goal:
 - **How can we work together to ensure – or at least maximize – our children’s safety at school?**

Task Force Mission:

Improve the safety and security of Taylor students and faculty.

1

Identify safety standards that incorporate known best practices and align with measures and community desires.

- Physical security and whole child / community categories (next slide).

2

Assess current safety measures against said standard to identify gaps.

If current audits or results are insufficient, consider supplementing with new tools.

3

Coordinate efforts to implement needed safety improvements through:

- Local school administration
- PTA and fundraising efforts
- County administration including capital plans

Safety Improvement Categories

Category	Description
Physical Security	Physical updates to the building or procedures to enhance physical safety.
Personnel Security	Appropriate human resources to support school safety, including who has access to the children and the building.
Crisis Communication	Measures to improve the speed and efficiency of emergency communications within the school and to law enforcement / first responders in a crisis.
Whole Child / Emotional Health	Measures to support emotional health and inclusive behavior of Taylor students
Community Support	Resources to support emotional health in the broader Taylor community

Top Priority Safety Improvements @ Taylor

1

Fortify front (single point of) entrance structure, process, and technology.

2

Dedicated full-time SRO(s) / Resource Assistant(s) in every school.
Increased mental health / preventive services.

3

Improve trailer security to include camera and buzzer system.

4

Replace door locks with new ones that lock from the inside.
• Establish, train, and retrain door lock policy and ensure that substitutes comply as well.

5

Enhance crisis communication measures.
• Text 911 in an emergency
• Install silent alarm buttons / panic alarms in every room.

Proposed CCPTA School Safety Subcommittee

- Updated mission statement: "Improve the safety and security of APS students, faculty, and staff."
 - Our goals include enhanced physical security, emotional well-being, and community support.
 - We advocate for close partnership and crisis communication with first responders during an emergency.
 - Our proposed method is to work with administration to establish baseline security measures for all APS schools, analysis of whether all schools meet those baselines, and coordination with administration, staff, and PTAs to close any identified gaps.

Proposed CCPTA School Safety Subcommittee

- Representation from each of the quadrants to:



1

Work with administration to **identify or establish county-wide safety standards.**



2

Assess current safety measures against said standard to identify gaps.



3

Coordinate efforts to implement needed safety improvements through:

- School administration
- County administration
- Funding options

- At individual schools, establish a safety chair or committee to keep safety messages top of mind for parents because safety is all of our responsibility ("see something, say something") through newsletters and open discussion of issues as they arise.

Questions?

Who's in?