

August 11, 1999

The Honorable James B. Hunt Jr.
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603-8001

Dear Governor Hunt:

There is no doubt that North Carolina is proactive in its efforts to address youth violence and school safety. Citizens of this state have seen many positive results over the past decade in this area, and these results stand as evidence of the leadership you provide.

Your charge to the Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety to do everything possible to make North Carolina's schools safer places for children to learn provided the Task Force with the direction it needed to focus its energy and commitment. Task Force members worked diligently in meetings held in Raleigh to formulate the recommendations that are contained in this report. Members also traveled across the state to town hall meetings where the citizens of North Carolina, including parents and students, discussed their concerns and showcased the many successful programs and strategies that can be found in the state.

The recommendations offered by the Task Force emphasize that reducing youth violence and making schools safer must involve everyone. Parents, students, school personnel, and everyone else who lives in North Carolina must be involved in the prevention, intervention, and response efforts. Working together in such a comprehensive way will allow us to build upon the many successes that we have already experienced.

We appreciate the opportunity to present these recommendations for consideration and offer to assist in efforts that will be pursued to put them into place. With all of us working together, we can continue moving in the positive direction your leadership has provided so that schools in North Carolina will be safer places as we move into the next century.

Sincerely,

Mike Easley
Co-Chair

Richard H. Moore
Chair

Mike Ward
Co-Chair

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety

**Executive Summary Report
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OVERVIEW

For many years, North Carolina has led the nation in pursuing efforts directed at reducing youth violence and making schools safer. The state's efforts intensified in 1993 when Governor Jim Hunt charged the Task Force on School Violence to find solutions to the problem of school violence. As a result of the implementation of many of the recommendations of the 1993 Task Force, North Carolina schools have become safer places for students to learn and teachers to teach. Since 1993-1994, the rate of reported incidents of school violence has declined 19 percent, and the number of guns brought to schools has dropped 65 percent. Youth violence has also been addressed with juvenile justice reform now being implemented and the number of juveniles arrested for murder down 28 percent since 1995.

With violent events occurring at schools in other parts of the United States, Governor Hunt moved to ensure that the strides North Carolina has made will continue into the next century. In early June 1999, Governor Hunt charged the Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety to do everything possible to make North Carolina's schools safer places for children to learn. Under the chairmanship of Richard H. Moore, Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, and co-chairs Mike Easley, Attorney General, and Mike Ward, Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Task Force met intensively to discuss the involvement of parents, schools, and communities in efforts which focus upon prevention, intervention, and crisis response. The Task Force acknowledged from the beginning that these efforts must be designed to ensure that the responsibility for making our schools safer falls on entire communities with parents and community members providing the support to schools that is necessary to achieve success.

Task Force meetings took place in Raleigh over a five-week period. During these meetings, the Task Force learned of the many efforts already underway in North Carolina. Additional information was gained from a series of town hall meetings held across the state. These meetings enabled the Task Force to hear firsthand from parents, students, administrators, school staff, and community members.

In addition to hearing about the many successes that can be found in the state, the Task Force was learned about some of the concerns that exist. Involving parents and students in safe school efforts, strengthening safe school plans, continuing efforts to identify early children who are in need, and ensuring that our communities are safe places in which to raise our children represent some of these concerns. By midsummer, the Task Force was able to generate the recommendations found in this report with the intent for some to be acted upon immediately and others to be examined and pursued as we move into the next century.

As reflected by the recommendations, foremost in the minds of the Task Force was that parents, students, schools, and communities must be involved in efforts designed to address youth violence and school safety. Continuing to focus upon prevention and intervention strategies was emphasized with additional attention suggested in the areas of crisis response and crisis management.

Although not specified in any of the recommendations, of particular concern was that programs that are pursued be required to have a research base and be subject to rigorous evaluation. The Task Force felt strongly that these requirements need to be part of any program adoption and implementation that potentially will come out of this report.

ACTION ITEMS

The following "action items" set a course for immediate actions which will be taken as the result of the Task Force's work. These actions will enhance school safety efforts during this school year and will set a course for continued success as North Carolina moves into the next century.

1. Set up a statewide toll-free anonymous tip line to respond to threats to school safety.
2. Send an early-warning signs brochure to every parent in North Carolina.
3. Ask the State Board of Education to study safe school plans, how they are written and how they are carried out.
4. Send final report with ideas for action to every school superintendent in North Carolina.
5. Ask principals to hold meetings at their schools with law enforcement, community leaders, parents and students to discuss their safe school plans.
6. Send final report with ideas for action to every local board of education in North Carolina.
7. Ask every PTA/PTO president to discuss "how we make this school safer" at one of their first meetings of this school year.
8. Hold local student summits about school safety during the school year - culminating in the statewide Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.) summit.
9. Brief all School Resource Officers and other law enforcement personnel about Task Force recommendations and how they can carry them out.
10. Ask the Center for the Prevention of School Violence to set up a conflict management project - resulting in all pre-service teachers and all administrators being trained to better manage conflict.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation One:

All parents must be involved in their children's education.

Recommendation Two:

Student involvement is essential to promoting school safety.

Recommendation Three:

Every school should be given the tools needed to develop and implement stronger school safety plans, including a set of accountability standards to measure the progress of their plan.

Recommendation Four:

Support efforts to provide every student and every school staff member with a school environment free from violence and the threat of violence, conducive to learning, and characterized by caring, respect for all, and sensitivity to diversity.

Recommendation Five:

Early identification of risk factors and behavioral problems must take place. Prevention and intervention strategies can be best implemented through early identification.

Recommendation Six:

Everyone must take responsibility for the communities where our youth are raised.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation One:

All parents must be involved in their children's education.

The Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety recognizes the importance of parental involvement in the lives of children. Parents are the first and most important teachers children have, and they reinforce academic and behavioral lessons taught at school. In addition, parental involvement is extremely important to make schools a safe environment for teaching and learning. School officials must make every effort to promote such parental involvement.

Toward this goal, the Task Force recommends:

- * The State Board of Education and local boards of education work together to establish minimum guidelines for parental involvement in schools. These guidelines could include the possible implementation of written pledges or contracts signed by parents, students, teachers and school officials which detail the responsibilities of each.
 - o NOTE: While supporting the concept of promoting more participation by parents, some members of the Task Force expressed concern about "mandating" parental involvement and the possible negative impact of requiring local school officials and teachers to take punitive action against parents who do not get involved. However, the Task Force agreed that encouraging parents to sign written contracts or pledges is acceptable and an idea local school boards should examine.
- * Local school officials include a "Parental Involvement Plan" in school system safe school plans and individual school improvement plans. The Parental Involvement Plan should lay out specific ways to promote and encourage parents to take an active role in the schools. In addition, principals who successfully carry out these plans should receive a financial incentive.
- * Home visitation be included in school improvement plans. Teachers - individually or as part of a team - should visit with parents and students in their homes or some other non-school environment. The State Board of Education should study how these visits could be carried out and funded for all students in grades K-3 and as needed for students in grades 4-12.
 - o NOTE: The Task Force agreed that time spent on home visits should be counted as part of teacher service time.
- * Employers recognize the importance of parental involvement in schools and adopt or amend their personnel policies to allow parents to volunteer in their child's school.

- * School administrators and teachers receive training to help them effectively create and sustain the parent-student-school relationship.
- * Appropriate state government agencies work together to create a clearinghouse of materials and other resources that local agencies can use to create and implement programs promoting better parenting skills.
- * Schools examine all available methods for promoting better parent-school communications, including web sites and e-mail.

Recommendation Two:

Student involvement is essential to promoting school safety.

Student energy and enthusiasm is a major part of encouraging and enhancing safe learning environments. In addition, students must have access to the resources they need to support safe schools. The Task Force encourages and supports the idea of participation by all students in safe school efforts and in the school generally. This also supports the idea that parents and school officials must work together to ensure some contact is made with every student every day.

Toward this goal, the Task Force recommends:

- * The state establish a statewide toll-free tip line for students to use to provide anonymous information on threats to school safety.
- * Schools must support student efforts to encourage and promote a peer culture of nonviolence. Specifically, elementary, middle and high school should encourage students to participate in anti-violence organizations, such as Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.).
- * School officials encourage the participation of every student in some program, activity or organization within the school. In addition, the school should provide resources, including transportation, for students to participate in a broad range of activities - including non-competitive sports, extra-curricular and curriculum-related activities, and pre- and after-school programs.
 - o NOTE: Some members of the Task Force expressed concern about mandatory student participation - specifically whether a limited availability of activities might actually exacerbate conditions, such as cliques, that sometimes lead to school violence.
- * Local school systems strongly consider establishing a minimum number of community service hours to graduate from high school.
 - o NOTE: The Task Force was divided as to whether such community service hours should be required for graduation.

Recommendation Three:

Every school should be given the tools needed to develop and implement stronger school safety plans, including a set of accountability standards to measure the progress of their plan.

North Carolina is a leader among states by requiring each school to develop safe school plans. Schools across the state have implemented strong and effective approaches that have resulted in the decrease of violent incidents in their schools.

The Task Force realizes that more can be done to help schools build on their progress and to help them set clear goals and measure the performance of their safe school plans.

Toward this goal, the Task Force recommends:

- * Safe school plans be developed with input from students, parents, teachers, and community public safety agencies including law enforcement, fire/rescue/emergency management, social services and public/mental health agencies. In addition, school officials should coordinate closely on prevention and intervention components of their plans with local Juvenile Crime Prevention Council members.
- * The Department of Public Instruction, the Center for the Prevention of School Violence, and other agencies collaborate on an improved, comprehensive and uniform system for developing and implementing safe school plans. This system must ensure that all schools have the guidance they need to develop the most effective school safety plans, including prevention, intervention and rapid response.
- * Schools share their plans and coordinate closely with the appropriate local crisis response agencies, including law enforcement and local governments, to ensure that strong communication and rapid response is established at the local level in the event of emergencies.
- * Schools conduct periodic review of their safe schools plans to update them as needed and conduct crisis response drills to ensure the viability of their plans.
- * All schools perform the North Carolina School Safety Audit as part of the safe school planning process, with the audit conducted by teams comprised of law enforcement, emergency response agencies, as well as school system personnel. The audits would help schools identify how effective their safe schools plan is, along with areas for improvement.
- * The State Board of Education consider the development and adoption of statewide accountability standards to ensure the effectiveness of safety plans and the planning process.

Recommendation Four:

Support efforts to provide every student and every school staffmember with a school environment free from violence and the threat of violence, conducive to learning, and characterized by caring, respect for all, and sensitivity to diversity.

Every student and every teacher deserves to learn in an environment free from fear and violence. Schools should be given every opportunity to foster academic excellence and achievement. The Task Force has explored the many factors needed to create and sustain such environments and has determined that multi-agency collaboration is essential.

Toward this goal, the Task Force recommends:

- * The Governor seek funding from the General Assembly to provide at least one School Resource Officer (SRO) in every middle school, with additional high school SROs funded on a per capita basis.
- * Closer collaboration among schools and key agencies providing services to at-risk students and their families, including private, public, non-profit, and faith-based organizations.
- * Additional study to determine what additional steps could be taken to reduce the threat of violence in schools, including reducing school size, staffing and direct contact with students -- including counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, physical layout, organizational structure and management.
 - o NOTE: Some Task Force members voiced support for completing the study as soon as possible so that funding the appropriate ratios can be pursued as soon as it is feasible to do so. Task Force members and Town Hall participants also voiced concern about the amount of testing and administrative paperwork required of school counselors. These conditions impede the counselors' opportunities to interact with students.
- * Additional resources be made available to provide for the implementation of character education statewide; to support the expansion of after-school programs beyond child care for elementary school students; and to provide additional mentors for at-risk students.
- * Identify federal and state laws and regulations that negatively impact a school's ability to deal with disruptive students, and make necessary changes.
- * State and local officials should pursue policies to ensure all students, including those who are long-term suspended or expelled, are required to attend quality alternative educational programs.
- * Local school systems thoroughly evaluate the need for technology (e.g., metal detectors, surveillance cameras) and policies for improved conduct and behavior (e.g., zero drug/alcohol/violence tolerance, no taunting/profanity pledges, uniforms, clear/no book bags).

- * Conflict management and dispute resolution training be incorporated into curriculum at university Schools of Education statewide and that training and instruction in this area be made available to all teachers and administrators.
- * The continued development and implementation of programs to train teachers and school officials to better deal with threats of violence, bullying, and disruptive classroom behavior.
- * Teen Court programs be expanded to all counties in the state.
- * The creation of school-based health clinics be encouraged.

Recommendation Five:

Early identification of risk factors and behavioral problems must take place. Prevention and intervention strategies can be best implemented through early identification.

With Smart Start, North Carolina leads the nation in its efforts to address early childhood development and education. As an outgrowth of this effort, the Task Force sees early identification of risk factors and behavioral problems as the first step to take in prevention and intervention efforts. Research suggests that with such identification in place prevention and intervention efforts are more likely to produce positive results. The Task Force recognizes that identification procedures need to be in place throughout the educational lives of children.

Toward this goal, the Task Force recommends:

- * Information be provided to all parents, students and school personnel on how to identify early warning signs of violent behavior and how to contact appropriate public health agencies for assistance.
- * Local school officials should work in collaboration with Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils on coordinated strategies - including prevention efforts and at-risk student case management, as well as ensuring availability of adequate physical and mental health services for families in need.
- * There should be a collaborative effort among state and local agencies to adopt a multi-agency case management model for at-risk families, integrating information on the needs and case histories of those families.
- * Local school systems should adopt proven methods for screening older at risk students at-risk.

Recommendation Six:

Everyone must take responsibility for the communities where our youth are raised.

The work of the Task Force reemphasizes that everyone must be involved in efforts directed at reducing youth violence and making our schools safer. The Task Force strongly encourages each of us to get to know our neighbors, especially youth, and to take action when warranted to create the type of society which will allow youth to grow and develop successfully.

Toward this goal, the Task Force recommends:

- * Current laws that are directly related to young people and guns need to be stringently enforced. Thorough analysis of the need for additional laws regarding parental accountability, access, and the transfer or sale of guns must be conducted. Continued efforts to promote gun safety education are encouraged.
 - + NOTE: The Task Force was split between those advocating greater enforcement of existing laws and those advocating even tougher laws.
- * Support for greater parental monitoring of video games, Internet access, television viewing, music, and movies need to be provided.
- * Consistent implementation of zero tolerance for guns, weapons, violence, drugs, and alcohol for youth should be supported through prevention initiatives, public awareness efforts, treatment programs, and offender punishment programs.
- * Greater involvement in our schools and in the lives of young people by the businesses community, civic organizations and non-profit agencies, senior citizens and retirees, and the faith community.
- * Develop an aggressive and ongoing statewide public awareness campaign which promotes efforts to reduce violence in our schools and among our young people - including summits where parents, students, teachers and administrators, and others together to share information about best practices and common areas of concern.

Governor's Task Force
on Youth Violence and School Safety

**Task Force Agendas
& Bibliographies**

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety Agenda
The McKimmon Center, June 8, 1999

9:30 Governor James B. Hunt, Jr
Welcome and charge to the Task Force

Secretary Richard Moore - Crime Control and Public Safety
Introduction of co-chairs

Dr. Pam Riley - Center for the Prevention of School Violence
Captain Jim Scifres - Greensboro Police Department
Overview of national and state efforts and programs

Dr. Mike Ward - Department of Public Instruction

Attorney General Mike Easley - Department of Justice

Director George Sweat - Office of Juvenile Justice

Secretary Richard Moore
Framework and directions for Task Force meetings

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Reconvene

Secretary Richard Moore
Introduction of Task Force Members
Brief introduction and perspective

2:45 Secretary Richard Moore
Summarize comments and set stage for subsequent meetings

3:00 Adjourn

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Bibliography: June 8, 1999

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Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety Agenda
The McKimmon Center, June 14, 1999

10:00 Secretary Richard Moore - Crime Control and Public Safety
Opening Remarks and Introduction of Guests/Experts

Dr. Mike Ward - Department of Public Instruction

Ms. Joanne McDaniel - Center for the Prevention of School Violence
Review of Task Force Notebook

Mrs. Sabrina Steger - Parent
Paducah, Kentucky

Ms. Tannis Nelson - North Carolina Parent Teacher Association
PAVE and PAWS

Ms. Lisa Kane - Sherwood Githens Middle School PTA
POPS

Mr. Kevin Dwyer - National Association of School Psychologists,
President Elect

STUDENT PANEL

Loren Renner - Leesville High School Gary Higgins - Lincoln Middle School

Johnnie James - Millbrook High School Maria Nkonge - Lincoln Middle School

Amanda Champion - Murphy High School Iris Whittington - Lincoln Middle
School

Adam Shepard - Southeast Raleigh High School Sarah Beth Cox - James B.
Hunt High School

Eddie Perry- William G. Enloe High School Leigh Tucker - James B. Hunt
High School

Secretary Richard Moore
Directions for afternoon discussion of questions

12:00 Lunch

12:45 Reconvene - Secretary Richard Moore
Facilitator of discussion of questions

2:45 Secretary Richard Moore
Summarize comments and set stage for subsequent meetings

3:00 Adjourn

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Bibliography: June 14, 1999

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Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety Agenda
The McKimmon Center, June 21, 1999

10:00 Secretary Richard Moore - Crime Control and Public Safety
Opening Remarks and Introduction of Guests/Experts

Joanne McDaniel - Center for the Prevention of School Violence
Review of Task Force Notebook and Materials

Representative Bob Etheridge - United States House of Representatives

10:45 Break

10:55 Pamela Riley - Center for the Prevention of School Violence

Safe School Planning
Sandra Peyser - Department of Public Instruction

Ontra Reddick - Eastern Safe School Team

Judy Hoffman - Wake County Board of Education

Corey Duber - Wake County Schools

Bob Bateman - Guilford County Schools

Chip Grammer - Cumberland County Schools

Secretary Richard Moore
Directions for discussion of questions

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Reconvene - Secretary Richard Moore
Facilitator of discussion

2:45 Secretary Richard Moore
Summarize comments and set stage for subsequent meetings

3:00 Adjourn

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Bibliography: June 21, 1999

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Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety Agenda
The McKimmon Center, June 28, 1999

10:00 Secretary Richard Moore - Crime Control and Public Safety
Opening Remarks and Introduction of Guests/Experts

Joanne McDaniel - Center for the Prevention of School Violence
Review of Task Force Notebook and Materials

Gary Bowen & Jack Richman - Jordan Institute for Families

James Wright - Tulane University

10:55 Break

11:05 Stephen Jurovics - President, LimitTV, Inc.

Carol MacKinnon-Lewis - Director, Center for the Study of Social Issues

Ken Dodge - Duke University

Secretary Richard Moore
Directions for discussion of questions

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Reconvene - Secretary Richard Moore
Facilitator of discussion

2:45 Secretary Richard Moore
Summarize comments and set stage for subsequent meeting

3:00 Adjourn

REMINDER: Town Hall Meetings:

Monday 28th Greensboro Ben L. Smith High School

Wednesday 30th Wilmington Spencer Administration Building

Thursday 1st Asheville Owen Middle School

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
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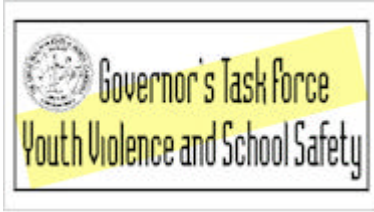
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Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety Agenda
The McKimmon Center, July 14, 1999

Overview

Small Group Discussions

Discussion of Recommendations

Adjourn

*Meeting to be facilitated by Secretary Richard H. Moore

**Breaks will be taken for lunch and Governor's Reception.

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
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Governor's Task Force
on Youth Violence and School Safety

Town Hall Agendas, Summaries & Programs

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Town Hall Meeting
A.L. Brown High School
Kannapolis. NC
Tuesday, June 15, 1999
6:30 pm

Secretary Richard H. Moore - Crime Control and Public Safety
Opening Remarks

Representative Richard L. Moore - North Carolina General Assembly
Facilitator

PREVENTION: Kannapolis City Schools

INTERVENTION: Cabarrus County Schools

RESPONSE: Local Law Enforcement

COMMUNITY INPUT: Speakers are to sign in and will be called upon by the
facilitator to offer up to three (3) minutes of comments.

TOWN HALL MEETING
KANNAPOLIS, NORTH CAROLINA
June 15,1999

Task Force Members in attendance:

Secretary Richard Moore, Chairman Mr. Jim Coman,
Superintendent Mike Ward, Co-chair Mr. Michael Lewis, Dr. Pam Riley,
Mr. Eric Tellefsen, Representative Richard Moore

The first Town Hall meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety convened in Kannapolis at 6:30 on June 15, 1999, at A. L. Brown High School. The Task Force members listed above, representatives of local school systems and law enforcement agencies, and community members were present.

The meeting, facilitated by Representative Moore, focused on the safe school efforts that are being pursued by Kannapolis City Schools, Cabarrus County Schools, and local law enforcement agencies. Kannapolis City Schools reviewed its K-12 programs that are designed to prevent problems and intervene when problems occur. A spokesperson for the community's newly formed local task force pointed out needs in the areas of direction from the state and technical assistance to carry out programs successfully.

Cabarrus County Schools also reviewed its many efforts. Character education efforts at Northwest Cabarrus Middle School were highlighted, and the principal of West Cabarrus High School described how safety efforts were enhanced at his school post Columbine. Resources for more counselors, School Resource Officers, school social workers, enhanced security, and alternative programs were called for, as was examination of the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Local law enforcement representatives described the need for partnership between/among the community, law enforcement, and the schools to address youth violence and school safety. Flexibility and training were noted as critically important components of successful partnerships.

Members of the community spoke out as well. Ideas offered included emphasizing prevention and early intervention, maintaining high expectations for students, making schools inviting to both parents and students, involving students in safe school efforts with a suggestion for creating a student violence prevention task force, examining the role of media in the coverage of incidents and in the glorification of violence, and highlighting that youth violence and school safety must be addressed by entire communities if efforts are going to be successful.

A few strong themes emerged from this meeting which support themes emerging from the Task Force work to date. First to note is that there are many efforts already in place in our schools and communities and that many of these are achieving success or have great promise. The need for examination of the quantity and roles of school counselors and a call for School Resource Officers in middle schools appear strong. And requests for leadership from the Task Force to provide both direction and resources to local efforts exist.

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Programs Mentioned at the **Kannapolis Town Hall Meeting**

- Alcohol / Drug Defense and Counseling Services
- Cabarrus Health Force
- Character Education
- Communities in Schools
- DARE
- Head Start
- Kids Plus
- One to One Mentoring Project
- Renaissance Program
- S.A.V.E.
- SOS
- SROs
- School within a School
- Second Chance
- Second Step
- Smart Start
- Winning Ways

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Town Hall Meeting
Independence High School
Winston-Salem, NC
Tuesday, June 22, 1999
6:30 pm

Welcome Greg Thorton

Assistant Superintendent: Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools

"Highlighting Efforts in Forsyth County"

Prevention

Richard Watts
Principal Kimberley Park Elementary School

"Victory in Partnership Program"
Ron Pannell

School Safety Officer W-S / FC Schools
"Video Surveillance"

Ron Morton
Executive Director CenterPoint Human Services

"Jason Net"

Interventions

Sergeant William Capers
SRO Officer Independence High School

Officer Stephen Williams
Mentor; Leap Academy

Community Response

Arthur Payne
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

"Achievement through Partnership" Program Hill Middle School
Walter Byrd Tony Burton

Chief Court Counselor: Office of Juvenile Justice Executive Director
"Day Reporting Center" "Vision Works"

TOWN HALL MEETING
WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA
June 22, 1999

Task Force Members in attendance:

Secretary Richard Moore, Chairman Mr. Walter Holton,
Senator Linda Garrou, Mr. Jim Simeon, Ms. Wanda Bryant, Mr. Michael Lewis,
Judge Pat Devine, Captain Jim Scifres, Mr. Jim Coman, Mr. Jeff Landreth,
Ms. Lorreta Biggs.

The second Town Hall meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety convened in Winston-Salem at 6:30 on June 22, 1999, at Independence High School. The Task Force members listed above, representatives of the local school system, law enforcement agencies, and community services, and community members were present.

The meeting, facilitated by Senator Garrou, highlighted efforts in Forsyth County. "Prevention," "Interventions," and "Community Response" provided the organizational framework for presentations offered by representatives of Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, local law enforcement agencies, and community services. The review of prevention efforts included highlighting of the "Victory in Partnership Program" which brings together parents, schools, and businesses to address parental involvement; how video surveillance can be used to prevent crime and "Jason Net," a network for sharing information between/among agencies, was described.

The review of intervention efforts included explanation of how School Resource Officers are part of comprehensive school efforts to address safety. The mentoring program at the Leap Academy was also reviewed.

Community response highlighted the work of the "Achievement through Partnership" program at Hill Middle School. Day reporting centers were discussed as was "Vision Works" which combines an after-school program with an alternative day program and a literacy program.

Community participation in the meeting was energetic and enthusiastic. Representatives of professional organizations such as school social workers and School Resource Officers spoke as did program representatives from the Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention, safe and drug-free schools, the Forsyth County Department of Health, Mediation Services, and several YMCA programs (including SOS). Approximately one hundred people were in attendance.

Themes continuing to emerge from this meeting include the need for parental involvement, more student services personnel such as school social workers and school psychologists, more School Resource Officers, and smaller schools or "school within school" management. In line with the extensive community effort found in Forsyth County is the theme that everyone must work together - including efforts directed at sharing information - to address the issues of youth violence and school safety.

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Programs Mentioned at the **Winston-Salem Town Hall Meeting**

- Achievement through Partnership
- Coalition for Drug Abuse Prevention of Winston-Salem
Day Reporting Center
- Distinguished Man / Phenomenal Women
- Drug Stoppers
- Father's and Friends
- Jason Net
- Job Link Career Center
- Mentoring Program at the Leap Academy
- S.A.V.E.
- SOS
- SROs
- STAR
- Stop One
- Super Kids
- TCC
- Victory in Partnership
- Vision Works
- YMCA Family Center / Family Ties

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Town Hall Meeting
J.H. Rose High School
Greenville, NC
Wednesday June 23, 1999
6:30 pm

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Purpose of Task Force
3. Guidelines for Meeting
4. Presentations:
 - Creating Safe Schools
Arlene Ferren, Pitt County Schools
 - Injury Prevention Programs
Becky Brewster
5. 3 - 5 Minutes Discussions / Recommendations:
 - Dot Lovin, School Counselor
 - Betsy Seawell, School Health Specialist (nurse)
 - Donnie Skinner, Campus Crime Stoppers
 - Blythe Tennent, Mediation Center of Easter Carolina
 - Judge Gwen Hilburn, Juvenile Court
 - Other Attendees
6. Closing Remarks

TOWN HALL MEETING
GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
June 23, 1999

Task Force Members in attendance:

Secretary Richard Moore, Chairman Ms. Jane Deese,
Representative Marian McLawhorn, Mr. Jim Simeon,
Dr. Henry Johnson, Mr. Michael Lewis, Dr. Pam Riley,
Dr. Judith Hetzel, Sheriff Billy Smith, Mr. Jeff Landreth,
Mr. Daryl Woodard,

The third Town Hall meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety convened in Greenville at 6:30 on June 23, 1999, at J.H. Rose High School. The Task Force members listed above, representatives of the local school system, law enforcement agencies, and community services, and community members were present.

The meeting, facilitated by Representative McLawhorn, provided an overview of how Pitt County Schools is addressing school safety and how these efforts link to community efforts. The message that "not one single agency can do it all" came through clearly in the presentations that were offered. Encouraging communities to determine their own needs and then to direct their efforts to these needs was highlighted. The importance of communication and trust was noted. While many good efforts were highlighted, the existence of problems was also acknowledged.

Short presentations offered views from many perspectives: school counselors, school nurses, campus crime stoppers, School Resource Officers, North Carolina Safe School team members, teachers, parents, juvenile court personnel, and mediation services staff. Many of the speakers were quite passionate in describing their concerns which included better meeting the needs of families, students, and teachers, creating stronger connections within the community, and offering health services, particularly mental health services.

Representative McLawhorn reviewed the status of several pieces of legislation currently being considered by the General Assembly. These include legislation which addresses class size, alternative education, family courts, metal detectors, "Lose Control, Lose Your License," and the need for more teachers.

Themes resonating from this meeting include the need for more school counselors and other student services staff, School Resource Officers for middle schools, parent and student involvement, smaller schools and classes, after-school tutorial programs and after-school structured activities, and training and support for teachers. Focusing on the needs of young people and of those who work with them daily was stressed to Task Force members.

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Programs Mentioned at the **Greenville Town Hall Meeting**

- Campus Crime Stoppers
- Child Abuse Program
- Injury Prevention Program
- Mediation Center of Eastern Carolina
- SROs

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Town Hall Meeting
Ben L. Smith High School
Greensboro, NC
Monday June 28, 1999
6:30 pm

Dr. Mike Renn - Guilford County Schools
Opening Remarks

Secretary Richard H. Moore - Crime Control and Public Safety
Purpose of Task Force and Guidelines for Meeting

Presentations / Recommendations:

- Officer Jeff Arney
SRO Program
- Mary Hoyle
Guidelines for handling threats of violence
- Sergeant Ray Maness
School Resource Section; Greensboro Police Department
- Sheriff BJ Barnes
Parental Involvement
- Jimmi Williams
Communities in Schools
- Officer Ernest Cuthbertson
Mentoring by SROs
- Gary Brown
Partnership between corporations and schools

COMMUNITY INPUT: Speakers are to sign in and will be called upon by the facilitator to offer up to three (3) minutes of comments.

TOWN HALL MEETING
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
June 28, 1999

Task Force Members in attendance:

Secretary Richard Moore Chairman, Captain Jim Scifres,
Mr. Michael Lewis, Ms. Belinda Foster, Dr. Marvin Pittman,
Chief Robert White, Mr. Jim Simeon

The fourth Town Hall meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety convened in Greensboro at 6:30 on June 28, 1999, at Ben L. Smith High School. The Task Force members listed above, representatives of the local school system, law enforcement agencies, community resource services, and a diverse group of community members were present.

The meeting, facilitated by Secretary Richard Moore, focused on how the Guilford County School System is addressing school safety by joining forces with the efforts of community agencies and resources. Presentations focused on School Resource Officers and other services law enforcement provided to schools, guidelines for handling threats in schools, parental involvement, mentoring, and public and private partnerships.

Among the programs highlighted was Communities in Schools (CIS) of Greater Greensboro. CIS operates throughout North Carolina and exists "To champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life." It maintains that "All children need and deserve five basic life tools: a personal, one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a marketable skill to use upon graduation, a chance to give back to peers and community, and a health start and a healthy future."

Concerned citizens also expressed their opinions about school violence prevention. Views from the NC School Social Workers Association, the local Athletic Booster Club, the Board of Education, and a local radio station were heard. These views gave a much-needed look into what homes, schools, and communities need to do in order to successfully aid young people. A plea to remember that we all need to start our efforts with an emphasis on caring for them was made.

The themes that were highlighted in this meeting included the importance of School Resource Officers in middle and high schools, the need for more guidance counselors and school social workers, more involved efforts of the community and its resources, the importance of extended day programs, and responsiveness to threats of violence. An emphasis on the importance of nurturing and sustaining commitment in efforts directed at youth violence and school safety ended the meeting on a high note.

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Programs Mentioned at the **Greensboro Town Hall Meeting**

- Communities in Schools
- DARE
- GBA Reporting System
- Mentorship Program
- SROs

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Town Hall Meeting
Spencer Administration Building
Wilmington, NC
Wednesday June 30, 1999
6:30 pm

Secretary Richard H. Moore - Crime Control and Public Safety
Purpose of Task Force and Guidelines for Meeting

Presentations / Recommendations:

- Mary Settle
Principal, Lakeside High School
- Susan Newman
Gang Intervention Task Force
- Kevin Foss
Juvenile Detective
- Lisa Brewster
Eastern Safe Schools Team
- Patti Bronson
Educational Karate Program

COMMUNITY INPUT: Speakers are to sign in and will be called upon by the facilitator to offer up to three (3) minutes of comments.

TOWN HALL MEETING
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA
June 30, 1999

Task Force Members in attendance:

Secretary Richard Moore, Chairman, Dr. Pam Riley, Ms. Wanda Bryant

The fifth Town Hall meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety convened in Wilmington at 6:30 on June 30, 1999, at the Spencer Administration Building. The Task Force members listed above, representatives of local school systems, law enforcement agencies, community resource services, and community members were present.

The meeting, facilitated by Secretary Moore, focused on the safe school efforts that are being pursued by New Hanover County Schools, outside community resources, and law enforcement agencies. The presentations focused on collaboration with outside community resources and the support of programs that are already in existence within the school system. The importance of community and parental involvement was emphasized along with a concern for the placement of "at-risk" youth. The superintendent of New Hanover County Schools spoke about the proactive approach that the schools and communities have taken but also the realization that there is room to improve.

Short presentations gave views from many perspectives: school principals, school counselors, teachers, the PTA, North Carolina Safe School team members, community agencies, School Resource Officers, concerned parents and child advocates. The speakers expressed their concerns about improved community collaboration and community resources, the importance of parental involvement, more after-school programs, improved health services, and alternative placement for "at-risk" youth.

Successful strategies were also highlighted, such as Lakeside High School, an alternative school that serves New Hanover County's "at-risk" population. School personnel focused on the much needed "Wellness Center" that is supported by the medical community to reach those students who otherwise would not have health services provided for them. Another highlight was the importance of local community groups that build life skills, assets, and resiliency in youth. The 4-H Youth Program and Communities that Care both focus on what students need to succeed inside and outside of the school environment.

Themes that resonated from this meeting include the need for more school counselors and school social workers, improved community collaboration, after-school programs, alternative placements that provide smaller class sizes, and parental involvement. The point was made that ultimately responsibility and effort must start in the home with parents who are involved in the lives of their children.

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Programs Mentioned at the **Wilmington Town Hall Meeting**

- 4-H Youth Club
- Communities that Care
- Educational Karate Program
- "Morning Greeters" Program
- PTA
- ROTC Program
- Wellness Center

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Town Hall Meeting
Owen Middle School
Swannanoa, NC
Thursday July 1, 1999
6:30 pm

Pamela L. Riley - Center for the Prevention of School Violence
Opening Remarks

Senator Charles Carter - North Carolina General Assembly
Facilitator

Presentations / Recommendations

- Liz Huesemann
Children First
- Pat Griffin
Excelerated Learning Center
- Ashley Maag
Kids on the Block Program

COMMUNITY INPUT: Speakers are to sign in and will be called upon by the facilitator to offer up to three (3) minutes of comments.

TOWN HALL MEETING
SWANNANOA, NORTH CAROLINA
July 1, 1999

Task Force Members in attendance:

Senator Charles Carter, Judge Pat Devine, Dr. Pam Riley, Mr. Jim Simeon, Mr. Micheal Lewis, Mr. Eric Tellefson, Ms. Priscilla Maynor, Dr. Tony Stewart

The sixth and final Town Hall meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety convened in Swannanoa at 6:30 on July 1, 1999, at Owen Middle School. The Task Force members listed above, representatives of the local school system, law enforcement agencies, community resource services, the business community, and the community at-large was present.

The meeting, facilitated by Senator Charles Carter, provided an overview of how the Buncombe County School system is addressing school safety in the areas of schools, communities, and homes. The overall message was an emphasis on the importance of a community collaboration in order to be successful, the need for input from students to solve problems, and comprehensive student support services. Buncombe County's three-year effort to determine the continuum of services which exists to provide services to youth in the community created interest and generated questions.

Brief presentations offered views from many perspectives: guidance counselors, school teachers, North Carolina School Psychologists, child advocates, parents, the Buncombe County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, North Carolina Safe School team members, School Resource Officers, and community service agencies. Some suggestions which were offered were in the form of calls for greater community collaboration, increased staff training in programs and crisis response plans, the establishment of youth centers and programs that serve students after school, and improved student support services. Senator Carter spoke of some of the actions recently taken by the General Assembly, including the expansion of Smart Start and the passage of "Lose Control, Lose Your License."

The themes from this meeting include the need for an increase in student support services within schools, increased numbers of school counselors, psychologists, after-school programs, and youth centers, and the implementation and practice of crisis response plans. The random nature of violence was noted but used as a means to stimulate energy to do what it takes to make our schools and communities safe for everyone.

Governor's Task Force on Youth Violence and School Safety
Programs Mentioned at the **Swannanoa Town Hall Meeting**

- Children First
- Kids on the Block
- Next Generation Inc. Program
- "We Help Ourselves"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ABCs: The State Board of Education developed the ABCs of Public Education in response to the School-Based Management and Accountability Program (SB 1139) enacted by the General Assembly in June 1996. The ABCs focuses on strong accountability with an emphasis on high educational standards, teaching the basics, and maximum local control. Schools that attain specified levels of growth are eligible for incentive awards or other recognition (including Schools of Excellence, Schools of Distinction, or Top 25 Schools in Academic Growth). Schools where growth and performance fall below specified levels are designated as low performing.

Bomb Threats (HB517): House Bill 517 is an act increasing the criminal penalty for a second or subsequent offense of making a bomb threat or perpetrating a hoax by placing a false bomb at a public building, providing for restitution of consequential damages resulting from bomb threats or hoaxes, increasing the penalty for bomb threats or hoaxes, bringing a bomb on school property, or actual detonation of a bomb... (see Session Law 1999 - 257, House Bill 517 for entirety).

Center for the Prevention of School Violence: The Center for the Prevention of School Violence was created from a recommendation of the 1993 School Violence Task Force. The Center is a primary point of contact for information, programs, and research about preventing school violence. The Center's vision is that "Every student will attend a school that is safe and secure, one that is free of fear and conducive to learning."

Communities in Schools (CIS): Communities in Schools connects community resources with students and their families at the school site. CIS coordinates needed services so young people stay in school and graduate from high school prepared to enter the world of work or post-secondary education.

Fast Track: The Fast Track prevention program is based on longitudinal research that has identified the key factors involved in the early development and escalation of aggressive, defiant, and antisocial behavior problems. In the Fast Track prevention model, a risk assessment is conducted in kindergarten and integrated prevention activities begin in first grade and continue through tenth grade. At all phases in the program, the degree of service depends upon youth/family need. The end result is a seamless network of integrated prevention activities that bridge school and home, with degree of service reflecting degree of need.

First Steps: First Steps is a best-practices intervention program designed to divert at-risk kindergartners from a path leading to an antisocial pattern of behavior that is destructive and very costly to the child, family, school, and ultimately, society. The two primary goals of the First Steps program are to teach the at-risk child to get along with others (teachers and peers) and to complete assigned academic work well and in a timely fashion.

Healthy Communities - Healthy Youth: An initiative that seeks to motivate and equip individuals, organizations, and their leaders to join together in nurturing competent, caring, and responsible children and adolescents. Police Officers in Cary, North Carolina, have become asset builders for all children in their community. The police officers specially assigned to the departments "Youth Service Team" have shifted their focus from a predominate deficit language approach to a language which is common to an asset building approach.

LimitTV: The mission of LimitTV is to inform parents, educators, children, community organizations of the several ways excessive TV viewing compromises early childhood development, hinders learning, and fosters aggressive/violence behavior, and to offer alternatives.

North Carolina Business Committee for Education's (NCBCE) Parent - Community Involvement Committee: NCBCE is a business-led nonprofit organization which recognizes that research links employee productivity and bottom line business results to business policies and programs that support employees' abilities to better balance work and family demands. A better balance leads to increased parent involvement which has been proven to be the number one contributing factor to higher student achievement. Higher student achievement in grades K-12 public schools is the mission of NCBCE's business/education partnerships.

The North Carolina Partnership in Character Education: The Character Education Partnership is comprised of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Cumberland, and Wake County Schools working collaboratively with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the Center for the Prevention of School Violence. The mission is to create a replicable model for character education which is based upon obtaining community consensus, addressing school climate, and integrating character education into curriculum.

North Carolina Safe Schools Teams: The Safe Schools Teams, comprised of school district employees on loan to North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, are legislatively mandated and will continue to operate in school year 1999-2000. They offer services which include assistance with safe school plans and crisis management as well as staff development for topics such as conflict management and student behavior management.

Parents Along With Students (PAWs): PAWS believes that adult presence on campus in the hallways, bathrooms and courtyard will promote positive behavior and provide a safer environment for children and teachers. Parents and other adults (partners) volunteer to be a positive presence at M.C.S. Noble Middle School in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Parents & Partners Against Violence Everywhere (PpAVE): Parents and other adults (partners) related to Emsley A. Laney High School students volunteer to be a presence in Laney's hallways, bathrooms, stairwells, and courtyards. Laney High School is located in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Parents As Teachers: An early childhood family education and support program that begins prenatal or at birth and extends to age 5. The teachers are the parents, supported by professional educators who suggest ways parents can effectively teach and nurture their young children. A strong research-based curriculum is used by certified parent educators to provide age-appropriate information to parents and help them lay a solid foundation for school and life success.

Parents on Patrol (POP): Implemented by Githens Middle School PTA in Durham North Carolina, the program was designed as an age-appropriate alternative to programs implemented in elementary schools. This volunteer program is aimed at bringing adult males into the school primarily between the hours of 7:15 and 7:45 AM on school days in order to provide the positive influence, guidance and presence of additional adult males during the critical start of the school day.

Project Potential: This program is designed to provide students with encouragement, financial assistance, and adult role models as they work through the challenges of being productive and successful teenagers. Implemented in Lexington, Thomasville and Davidson County Schools in North Carolina.

Safe School Plans: District level plans exist in all North Carolina school systems. Each school is required to address safety as part of its school improvement plan. One hundred percent (100%) of North Carolina school systems have safe school plans, which lay out a school's plans to prevent and respond to violence.

School Resource Officer (SRO): A certified law enforcement officer who is permanently assigned to provide coverage to a school or a set of schools. The SRO is specifically trained to perform three roles: law enforcement officer; law-related counselor; and law-related education teacher. The SRO is not a security guard or officer who has been placed temporarily in a school in response to a crisis situation but rather acts as a comprehensive resource for his/her school.

Second Step: A school-based social skill curriculum for preschool through middle school/junior high that teaches children to change the attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence.

Smart Start: Introduced by Governor Hunt in 1993, Smart Start allows local leaders to identify the needs of children in their community and help these children start school healthy and ready to learn. Local partnerships provide funding and assistance for childcare, health screenings, parent resources and other services.

Students Against Violence Everywhere (S.A.V.E.): S.A.V.E chapters are student-run organizations that work to promote nonviolence. These chapters provide positive ways for students to be actively involved in combating youth violence. S.A.V.E. promotes the virtues of peace, civility, and nonviolence through compassion by helping students of all ages learn how to care about other people.

Summoning the Village: Summoning the Village is a school-based, violence prevention program housed in two middle schools in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. The program is a collaborative effort that involves three major organizations as well as a broad range of outside agencies. The three groups responsible for the project include Mental Health Association, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

Support Our Students (SOS): SOS is an award-winning program created by Governor Hunt that matches at-risk middle schools students with adult mentors, who tutor the students and get involved in other after-school activities. Currently, SOS operates in 76 counties in the state.

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