

BOARD NOTES
Public Work Session
January 6, 2020

A work session was held on Monday, January 6, 2020, at 5:45 p.m. with Phil King, Al Williamson, Dale Groves, Rich Shail and Jason DeMeyer present. Dr. Paul White was also present.

Phil King opened the Work Session then turned over the work session to Dr. White. Dr. White explained that the purpose of this work session is to present information to the Board for some decisions that need to be made regarding Emergency Protocol and student safety.

Dr. White handed out to the Board the "Emergency Protocol Sheet" that has straight forward language particularly on "Lock-Out" and "Lock-Down" protocols. "Lock-Down" right now is understood that students are not released to anyone to leave the building, however, Lock-Out is vague and needs to be straight forward then shared with parents.

Mr. King asked Attorney Kaminski if any other neighboring Districts have policies for Emergency Protocols. Attorney Kaminski said that our school is way ahead of others in our region right now implementing Emergency Protocols.

Dr. White said that the LaPorte County Safety Commission, and all school districts have agreed that the language on the "Emergency Protocol Sheet" will be implemented in all schools so there is a consistency with the Sheriff's Office.

Attorney Kaminski said that it is correct that all schools have agreed that the Protocol Dr. White handed out is the best thing to do. The decision *not* to release students to parents/guardians in a "Lock-Out" or "Lock-Down" scenario would be made in concert with the medical, police, fire, and Sheriff's offices. It would not be just a New Prairie United School Corporation decision to not release students but a concerted effort of all departments.

Mr. Groves stated that he feels that what Dr. White is asking for is extremely reasonable. He has a student at the middle school currently and wants to do what is safest and supports the decision of not releasing students in a "Lock-Out" or "Lock-Down" situation.

Mr. Shail agreed and thinks local law enforcement would appreciate not dealing with backed up traffic of parents picking up students in the middle of a safety situation also putting those students and parents in danger.

Dr. White also mentioned creating phone call scripts ahead of time to address parents in a timely way so as to get back to the process of dealing with the safety situation. The Board agreed unanimously.

Mr. Shail stated that he thinks we need to issue a protocol that once a "Lock-Out" or "Lock-Down" has been announced, kids are staying in the schools, no signing out. Dr. White stated that he also feels that by not having parents and students leaving the premises during a safety situation that it eliminates the possibility of outside threats from targeting those leaving the school.

Dr. White said that during the series of meetings he attended with Sherriff Boyd and his staff, it was discussed that with a serious "Lock-Down" situation Cougar Road between Highways 2 and 20 would be established as a perimeter and shut down.

Dr. White explained that the handout that the Foundation created that he gave to the Board has a parent page that explains what the role of parents, students and teachers are in a safety situation.

Mr. Shail asked Attorney Kaminski if we should put this into policy. Attorney Kaminski said that it needs to be part of the School Safety Plan.

Dr. White said that this work session is to obtain Board support in implementing the procedure on not releasing students in a "Lock-Down" or "Lock-Out" situation. The Board expressed their support unanimously. Dr. White stated that he will draft a parent communication in the next couple weeks to explain the procedure and expectation on not releasing students in the event of a "Lock-Down" or "Lock-Out". He will send it to the Board before sending to parents