

## INDIANA SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY BOARD MEETING

October 26, 2017

Indiana Government Center – South, Conference Room 8

10:00 a.m.

302 W. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

### **Members Present:**

Carter, Sup. Douglas (ISP)  
Bryan Langley (IDHS)  
Bowlen, Eric (Principal, John Wooten Middle School)  
David Murtaugh (ICJI)  
Scott Mellinger (Madison County Sheriff)  
Woodward, David (IDOE)

### **Members Absent:**

Curtis Hill (ATG)

### **Proxies Present:**

McDowell, Kevin (ATG)

### **Also in Attendance:**

Allen, Michelle (IDHS)  
Cowles, Hannah (IDHS)  
Snyder, Kim (IDHS)  
Thiemann, Adam (IDHS)  
Workman, Tayler (IDHS)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM. Director Bryan Langley, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board Member and Audience introductions were made. Roll call was taken and it was determined that there was a quorum. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the September meeting.

Proposed by: Doug Carter

Seconded by: David Murtaugh

Vote: carried

A conversation took place to discuss a previously voted on motion that required the use of the State fiscal year to manage the Secured School Safety grant program. Tayler Workman provided a timeline to better explain the Indiana Department of Homeland Security's Grants Team's decision to move to an October 1 start date. Adam Thiemann explained that on the budget years it is difficult for IDHS to get money to the schools prior to October. This is why there is hesitation to have a July 1 start of performance period.

- David Murtaugh expressed opposition, stating that he believes state dollars should remain managed on a state fiscal year. The change to an October 1 start date could also makes it difficult for the schools to hire a School Resource Officer (SRO) in the middle of the school year. Murtaugh commented that he believes award notifications can be out by July 1 even if the contracts have to be delayed.

- Eric Bowlen added that it can be difficult for schools to implement strong programs that starts in the middle of the school year. With an October start date, this would make starting a grant funding SRO program at the start of the school year nearly impossible.
- David Woodward commented that it would be great if we could get this out to schools by July 1 and that maybe every other year we could but it is difficult to go through the application process not knowing how much funding may be awarded. Woodward posed the question of how this process could be streamlined.
- Kim Snyder added that it does makes sense to have this program run on the state fiscal year but this sets the agency up to fail. In order to streamline the process and get awards out in July, the Board would have to start meeting in January and possibly meet monthly.

A motion was made to keep the Secured School Safety Grant Program on the state fiscal year and have further discussion on moving the time frame up for the application process in order to allow these awards to get out prior to July 1.

Proposed by: David Murtaugh

Seconded by: Doug Carter

Vote: carried

Schools with continuing SRO programs and their risk assessments were discussed and evaluated.

- David Murtaugh questioned if it was IDHS's recommendation to fund thirteen of the fourteen schools that had been asked to provide additional information regarding their SRO programs.
- Tayler Workman responded that, yes, thirteen of the fourteen schools are being recommended for funding. Richmond Community Schools is the only from this group recommended for denial as their SRO program is already funded by the school budget.

A motion was made to approve all thirteen schools recommended for approval by IDHS.

Proposed: David Murtaugh

Second: Kevin McDowell

Vote: carried

Tayler Workman presented on a list of schools whose applications were not reviewed during the initial scoring period due to technical difficulties. These school were scored separately and held to the same criteria as the other schools.

A motion was made to approve the two private schools in this category, Holy Rosary and the Church of the Resurrection School.

Proposed: David Murtaugh

Second: Eric Bowlen

Vote: carried

A motion to approve the IDHS recommendation to fully fund Adams Central Community Schools, New Prairie United School Corporation, and Springs Valley Community Schools was made.

Proposed: Douglas Carter

Second: David Murtaugh

Vote: carried

There was a discussion regarding the applications for Mill Creek Community School Corporation and Monroe Central School Corporation. These schools did not meet the original threshold set for full funding but were requesting funding for a continuing SRO. Both schools were offered the opportunity to respond to the supplemental questions provided to the previously voted on schools. The supplemental information was reviewed.

A motion was made to follow the IDHS recommendation to approve these schools for funding only going to support their continuing SRO programs.

Proposed: Kevin McDowell

Second: Eric Bowlen

Vote: carried

Taylor Workman explained that there were four schools currently being recommended for denial by IDHS. Elwood Community School Corporation, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, and Seven Oaks Classical School did not meet the scoring threshold established for the initial round of funding determinations. These schools were requesting equipment only and were therefore not provided the supplemental SRO questions. Southwest Dubois County School Corporation did not meet the scoring threshold and requested funding for a new SRO program.

A motion was made to follow IDHS recommendation and deny funding to Elwood Community School Corporation, Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation, Seven Oaks Classical School, and Southwest Dubois County School Corporation based on their low scoring applications.

Proposed: Douglas Carter

Second: David Murtaugh

Vote: carried

The Board was asked if late applications would be accepted. The Board determined that deadlines are critical and established for good reason.

A motion was made to enforce that applications submitted late will not be reviewed or approved.

Proposed: David Murtaugh

Second: Kevin McDowell

Vote: carried

The Non-final order of dismissal for Eastern Pulaski was reviewed. Michelle Allen briefly explained the appeal process for a school. Allen also indicated that IDHS has requested clarification from the Office of the Attorney General on whether or not this board does have appeal rights.

A motion to approve the non-final order of dismissal was made.

Proposed: Kevin McDowell

Second: Douglas Carter

Vote: carried

There was discussion on the when to meet next and what the priorities of the Board would be for the next meeting.

- Taylor Workman commented that at the previous meeting the Board had expressed interest in drafting some kind of guidance on what they are looking for in an SRO program. The Indiana School Resource Officer's Association is interested in working with the Board to achieve this.
- Doug Carter expressed some hesitation about bringing in the INSROA for collaboration. He believes that the inclusion of an off duty officer without an SRO certification should be able to be funded and does not want guidance to contradict that.
- The question was raised as to whether or not the Board wants to put a priority on a specific section of the grant. It was requested that IDHS provide them with graphs of the funding requests for the past years at the next meeting.

Doug Carter expressed the importance of putting together a sustainability plan for these schools, emphasizing that moving forward, there are only going to be more applications and more denials of

funding. Schools have to know that this funding is not going to be available forever an applications have to improve.

December 12 at 1 PM was determined for the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM.