

and the hiring of more security guards.

The physical location group is concerned with the effects of flooding, wildfire, high winds, hail, wildlife, blizzards, and excessive snow drifting. Each classroom has been provided with an emergency backpack containing such items as flashlights, whistles, and other trauma supplies. This group focused primarily on the exterior of facilities.

The group recommended increased staff training on emergency procedures, increased exterior camera coverage, improved lighting, utilities fencing, and refined evacuation procedures to alternate sites.

The facilities services subcommittee focused on transportation resources, the administration building,

Grace Best Elementary, the Lewis-Palmer High School food services facility, and the Palmer Lake Elementary Child Care facility. Primary concerns were ease of access to each of these facilities, security of transportation resources, and the danger of food contamination.

Recommendations of the subcommittee included the addition of a door camera at the entrance to Grace Best, where the Home School Enrichment Academy holds classes; purchase of panic buttons for each facility; improved security at the district's central office; and the provision of radios for communication between facilities. The addition of intercoms at the entrance of each high school was also recommended.

The subcommittee also recommended the purchase of Zonar radios for all buses so their location could be easily monitored.

The climate and culture subcommittee concerns itself with threat assessment, staff and student climate, and mental health programs and procedures. They also examined procedures for monitoring students whose behavior becomes threatening.

The subcommittee's recommendations included ac-

tive use of the Multi-Tiered Support System, a process of evaluating the severity of a student's ability to control his actions, a survey of the overall well-being of students, and a possible survey of staff and community to identify concerns.

School resource officer trains staff

The district's school resource officer, Dennis Coates of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, spoke briefly about training the staff to be empowered to be proactive in crisis situations. The Palmer Ridge High School staff and school administrators have undergone the training through the use of tabletop drills and role playing. Staff at remaining schools will be trained throughout the year. Coates said that staff members were very grateful for this training.

Coates said that since the Columbine High School shootings, school staff is no longer instructed to wait for the arrival of law enforcement personnel, but instead is trained to respond immediately, because a crisis situation often lasts just a few minutes.

He suggested that, because schools perform required fire drills, perhaps they could also perform emergency drills involving isolating areas of a building.

Coates also commented that the appropriate response to some situations, such as breaking a window to escape, is often counterintuitive. He said that the district may purchase some salvage windows to practice with in order to make staff members aware of the amount of force needed to completely remove glass and make it safe for students to escape.

The district will also examine procedures for securing facilities during after-school events.

Board Vice President Mark Pfoff commended the

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