## SAFE SCHOOLS ADVISORY COUNCIL 2018-19 REPORT

School Board Meeting May 15, 2019

Ann Nuzzo, Chairman Jarcelynn M. Hart, Facilitator, Associate Superintendent for Western Elementary Schools



### Purpose

The Safe Schools Advisory Council (SSAC) was created to support the safety and security of students, staff, and schools. SSAC meets on the second Monday of every month during the school year in the Kelly Leadership Center. Over time, SSAC has shifted from a focus on hardware to mental wellness and preventative services.



# Safe Schools Advisory Council

#### **School Board Members:**

Alyson Satterwhite, Gainesville District Justin David Wilk, Potomac District

#### **School Board Appointed Representatives:**

Ann Nuzzo, Chair, Brentsville District Robin Morrow, At-Large Representative Kalai Kandasamy, Coles District Jeffrey Bergman, Gainesville District Victoria Cole-Rolon, Neabsco District Sara Thompson, Occoquan District Cathy Strittmater, Potomac District Maria Johnson, Woodbridge District

#### **Superintendent's Staff:**

Jarcelynn M. Hart, Facilitator, Associate Superintendent for Western Elementary Schools

#### **Superintendent's Representatives:**

Dr. Dolores Robison, Secretary, Threat Assessment Supervisor
Richmond Hill, Supervisor, Student Assistance and Prevention Programs
Marlene Coleman, Principal, John Jenkins Elementary School
Kevin Smith, Principal, Potomac Middle School
Andrew Barton, Assistant Principal, Stonewall Jackson High School
Virginia Krause, School Nurse, Antietam Elementary School
Heather Wisnieski, School Nurse, Reagan Middle School

#### **County and School Division Representatives:**

Ron Crowe, Vice-Chair, Director of Risk Management and Security Services

Mary McGowan, School Division Counsel

Lt. Shane Ash, PWC Police Department Liaison

Kim Hylander, PWC Fire and Rescue Liaison

Heather Martinsen, PWC Community Services



### **Areas of Focus**

Over time, SSAC has shifted from a focus on hardware to mental wellness and preventative services. Presentations in past years have included:

- Bullying prevention training seminars for families;
- Mental health awareness and suicide prevention presentation; and
- Public service announcements focusing on gang violence and opioid abuse.

In the fall, SSAC agreed to focus on resiliency for the 2018-19 school year.



## Resiliency at Home, School, and Community Parent Information Night March 26, 2019

- On March 26, the SSAC hosted a parent information night with a keynote presentation by Dr. Jim Harris, who spoke with parents and school staff about resiliency at home, at school, and in the community.
- During the presentation, 14 local organizations were present as a resource for interested families.
- The presentation was attended by over 150 individuals.
- Here is a brief clip of Dr. Harris during the presentation.



### **Next Steps**

SSAC will continue to provide information and resources that support resiliency and partnerships between home, school, and the community.

Mental Wellness Matters.



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