

Hello WCSD Community Member

Thank you for attending our School Safety Panel Discussion. We take student safety very seriously in the Wappingers Central School District, and we hope that you find the information shared this evening to be helpful in addressing any questions you may have.

The questions below were taken from the December 2019 School Safety Community Survey and used to identify a panel of professionals who we believe can best answer the questions. Each question will be moderated by Dr. Amy Watkins in the order listed below. Any follow up questions may be asked via email to daren.lolkema@wcsdny.org.

Order	Questions taken from the survey:
1	How secure are the schools in the Wappingers CSD?
2	What does my school do to prevent violence?
3	Does your student's school have a team assigned specifically to student safety?
3	Is there a team designated to school safety?
4	What can we, as educators, do to ensure that we are prepared for incidents which may occur?
5	In the event of a security emergency, what are the drills the district is performing to protect my children?
6	Why aren't drills conducted during lunch times?
7	I would like to know how the children are prepared for drills in their new school environment when entering 7th grade?
8	I don't think John Jay has done any drills with the students if there is an active shooter. This is going to happen?
9	What is the safety protocol for a student who is away from their classroom if there is an attack?
10	Please explain the benefit of having students sit on the floor with their heads down rather than teaching them to fight back or find an escape route.
11	What additional measures can the district put in place for special ed/ inclusion/integrated classes where there are students that may not be able to remain quiet and still during lockdown?
12	How can Parents be more involved in helping support school safety?
13	What can we do to better control for compliance to safety rules, lock down drills, fire drills in the school setting? How do we get the parents to reinforce these rules with the children at home?
14	How do I teach my kindergarteners the importance of a lockdown drill without scaring them? https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/17-18/teacher-lockdown-strategies/
15	How are we training substitute teachers to be compliant with district and school safety policies to ensure that they feel equipped to handle an emergency?
16	How has safety in the WCSD school classrooms improved since you started coming up with new ideas?
17	What is the protocol in environmental and social disasters?
18	What gives you the slightest sense that the security initiatives that have been put in place could do anything to keep students and staff safe?
19	What forms of identification are acceptable for visitors to be granted access to the schools?
20	How accessible are our schools, can anyone walk in at any time?
20	Why aren't the ID scanners properly installed and functioning at WJH?

21	How do you handle an intruder that has entered into the school? How are our kids protected? What safety measures are put into place?
22	What are we doing to ensure that the buildings are secure before and after school is in session?
23	How do you prevent a suspended child from entering the school when the children enter the building together?
24	It is concerning that anyone could walk into the outdoor play space at Sheafe Rd while the children are at recess, or a child could walk/run off site (especially the kindergarten playground which is right next to the parking lot) ALSO FPES This is especially a worry as a parent of a child with special needs who posed a flight risk Can the outdoor play areas be fenced and gated so that outsiders cannot enter the space. And to ensure the safety of children at play
25	How will the district continue to support students' mental health and the students who struggle with mental health issues?
26	You're speaking about protecting children from outside forces so they can feel safe in school. My question is what are you doing about the INSIDE forces, the bullies, that make children feel unsafe EVERYDAY?
27	What steps is the district talking to protect students from the random acts of violence, particularly shooters that seems to be more common in recent years? What is being done to identify and address these individuals before an incident of violence occurs?
29	Do our students know whom to report suspicious activity to?
30	With district elementary schools with a population 500 or more, what is the district doing to ensure that they are staffed with the proportionate number of administrators to students so they can respond to all emergencies and to ensure daily operations are carried out efficiently?
30	Are there any plans in place to have Assistant Principals put in place at the elementary schools, or possibly rotating APs to be shared between nearby elementary schools?
31	Has the district considered employing retired police officers OR SRO for security, the same way that other districts do? AT EVERY SCHOOL
31	How can security be improved if we have less hall monitors than in the past? Cameras cannot be counted on as a 100% preventative measure, without boots on the ground.
31	Is it a possibility that armed police officers be at our schools daily?
31	Why don't you have adequate security personnel inside the front of the building?
31	Why aren't there security guard(s) walking through the building at any given day?
31	Why haven't we, at WJHS, gotten an SRO for our building?
33	What is the school's protocol for alerting families when there has been a serious incident and what is the timeline for that?
34	Does each school have an evacuation location in the community where students can be moved to if need be?
35	What are the current plans in place for parents to collect their children in case of violent event
36	Are our administrative teams trained in crisis management?
37	What safety standards are being followed during the bus drop off in the morning - with the amount of kids especially at the high school level, it seems probable that anyone can enter with the masses of kids entering the building undetected. The parking area and drop off areas aren't monitored so anyone can enter the grounds during this time. I have only seen traffic monitors directing traffic at JJHS during this drop off/pick up time In the afternoon at dismissal again so many kids coming from the building some going on buses and other being picked up, seems unsafe when the parking area is not being monitored...why isn't there a staggered

	dismissal implemented so that the entire school population isn't in the parking lot at the same time. Although there is a gate station at John Jay I have never been stopped and have been able to drive right through, right up to the front door...why is that? What's the purpose of the gate?
38	What are the precautions that are being taken to check to see if a student brings a gun,, knife etc into school if there are no metal detectors
39	Have metal detectors been considered?
40	Why isn't every close proximity of criminal events cause for a school lockdown?
41	Explain how the front desk and a new vestibule will stop someone with a semi-automatic weapon.
42	What is the local police response posture of an active shooter event inside a school?
42	How do you know for certain that a student rumor is not credible? What deems it not credible?
43	Traditionally, how long would a student be suspended for making a empty threat that they were planning on shooting up the school and this empty threat was reported to the school district by someone on your anonymous tip line who wasn't sure it was an empty threat?
43	Word is spreading through the community that the schools anonymous tip line is not anonymous after all and that a student's physical address can be revealed to law enforcement by a simple call to Optimum online or Verizon by tracking the individuals router IP address. The question is, why has the school district not put disclaimers on their website that a person's identity can be revealed after all?
44	When threats are made to our school (ex.: recent threat by a student to bring a gun to school), why can't the staff be made aware of that PRIOR to the general public receiving an email about it? We wouldn't need to know the name of the student/person issuing the threat, but we certainly could be more vigilant and mentally prepared, should something happen. In conjunction, why aren't our greeters at the lobby desk made aware of threats, as they are truly the first line of defense in the building, should someone try to get in?
45	Can special door locks/stoppers be installed in classrooms?
46	Can you please explain the District's relationship with the Altaris Consulting Group?
49	How can you explain to parents that when they come to evening events to pick up their child, it is a serious danger to pull up close to the building and wait several minutes? In the event there is a need for police, fire or ambulance, they are blocking the entry way.
52	Why does the district not ensure that there is adequate cell phone service (AT&T, Verizon, etc...) at the schools? For example there is absolutely NO service at Oak Grove Elementary-VW-RCK. In the event of an emergency, where the school is on a lock down, teachers (and students) are completely unable to communicate with the outside world. The communication could include details for emergency responders about an attacker such as location, number of assailants, injuries in a room, etc... In this modern day, it should be a requirement that schools have a backup means of communication that is separate from the school's infrastructure (in the event of someone being able to monitor it). Two-way radios are not a solution for this - the ability to communicate from within a closet via text messaging or allowing emergency services to monitor a room's situation via speaker phone should be paramount.
53	Are there any plans currently in place to upgrade the physical security of school buildings (ballistic windows, locks on doors, cameras, etc)? If so, what plans are in place and what is the anticipated timeline of completion?
54	Is the school investing in additional physical security measures? Especially in areas like staircases and single use bathrooms during class periods where students have to potential to be unsupervised for long periods of time.
55	Over the next 2 years, what type of safety improvements can we expect to see throughout the district?