

CHIPPEWA VALLEY SCHOOLS

District-Wide Assessment of Building Security

Preliminary Report, April 17, 2018

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

Wakely Associates, Inc. in association with Barton Malow Co. and the Chippewa Valley Maintenance Staff has performed a District-Wide Assessment of Building Security for the Chippewa Valley School District. The primary focus of the assessment was to analyze the points of entry of all District facilities to assess the physical security measures that are currently in place for visitors, staff, parents and students. We also examined potential added security measures that the District may want to consider at each building.

The District buildings included in this assessment are:

- Administration Building
- Maintenance Building
- Mohegan High School
- Little Turtle Preschool
- Cherokee Elementary School
- Cheyenne Elementary School
- Clinton Valley Elementary
- Erie Elementary School
- Fox Elementary School
- Huron Elementary School
- Miami Elementary School
- Mohawk Elementary School
- Ojibwa Elementary School
- Ottawa Elementary School
- Shawnee Elementary School
- Sequoyah Elementary School
- Algonquin Middle School
- Iroquois Middle School
- Seneca Middle School
- Wyandot Middle School
- CVHS 9th Grade Center
- Dakota 9th Grade Center
- Chippewa Valley High School
- Dakota High School

SECURITY CRITERIA:

Protecting school buildings is an incredibly complex job and truly is an imperfect science. Districts have to deal with buildings of various ages and design configurations which pose great challenges for the staff to secure each of their entrances.

In it's simplest terms, creating secure schools means to create physical barriers which provide **Prevention** and **Mitigation** for unwanted visitors. Prevention is simply denying access to unwanted visitors and Mitigation is to slow down the visitor's ability to travel thru the building via containment if prevention has failed.

Physical barriers will **NOT** guarantee the prevention of forced entry, but they will buy "Time" by delaying the unauthorized visitor to travel through the building so staff can implement lockdown procedures and notify proper authorities.

Physical barriers work in conjunction with surveillance and access control to reduce the opportunity for crime by increasing the visibility of the main entry area to allow for more efficient screening of each visitor.

Our Project Approach was to evaluate the main entrances, evaluate the exterior building envelope, evaluate the current surveillance and access control systems, evaluate the current door hardware, evaluate the current main office locations, and evaluate the current visitor screening procedures.

However, the most important component of creating secure school entrances is not created by barriers, cameras or door hardware. It is the situational awareness of each staff member. This means the ability of each staff member to observe, identify, assess and comprehend a situation to determine if it is a potential threat to the occupants of the building.

Unfortunately, it is not something that we can buy off the shelf. Each person reacts differently to situations as they unfold and present themselves. Early detection is the key. Early detection will give the staff member those crucial few seconds of "Time" to make an informed decision to act and implement District procedures or alert proper authorities.

KEY FINDINGS:

All District buildings have many security measures already in place that restrict the entry into the buildings such as door access control systems which restrict entry except to those individuals who possess an approved access card.

Also, visitors at all buildings are kept outside the main entrance until they are screened and approved for entry by the main office staff via an video/intercom system mounted outside the entry doors.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

An area in need of further examination are the Main Entrances at both of the High Schools. These areas are being examined to re-design how visitors enter the buildings.

The following items pertain to all District buildings. We examined was adding physical barriers, or mitigation, within the existing corridor systems in the event that a situation presented itself where the building staff felt it necessary to secure areas of the building to prevent access by an unwanted individual.

This would be accomplished by adding sets of doors in strategic locations within the existing corridor system that would close upon the activation of a 'Lockdown Button' in the Main Office. The doors would always allow for emergency egress in one direction but restrict access from the other direction to secure corridors from an unwanted visitor.

We also examined the issue of using the current classroom door arrangement as a barrier between students and an unwanted visitor who may have gained access into the corridor system. The concept here is to provide the classroom door with new hardware that restricts access from the corridor side and is to be able to be locked via key from inside the classroom without opening the door. The proper procedure that should be in place here would be to keep all classroom doors locked during normal school hours.

In addition, the existing glass in the classroom doors would either be replaced with impact resistant glass or covered with impact resistant film that would withstand impact by bullets or hand held objects to deter an unwanted visitor from access into the room.