



## **STPA Parent Meeting Regarding Safety & Security**

**April 17, 2018**

### **Welcome/Introduction of Presenters and Guests**

#### **Overview of reasoning behind meeting**

- We are a family, and as such all members play a role in ensuring the safety of our “home” and our “family members.” We want to make sure you are well-informed of what is going on and are able to assist in your role.
- We realize parents are afraid and want to know that their children are safe.
- We want to ensure parents – and their children – know that we are doing everything we can to provide the safest environment possible.
- We know that you want to know what is being done. Although we cannot share every detail of our plans and procedures, we want to provide an overview of what is being done to ensure safety and security.
- There will be time for questions toward the end of the presentation, but first we want to provide you with an overview.

#### **Brief explanation of what has been going on**

- Several threatening messages have been found on campus or received by campus community members.
- Each time, the threat was reported to local law enforcement, who worked alongside campus administrators to carry out the investigation. We have remained in close contact.
- Parents were notified each time, with the details that could be shared in regards to each incident. Unfortunately, the district cannot share all details, as the investigations are ongoing, and doing so could compromise our ability to close the cases.
- There have not been additional updates made, as unfortunately there are no further details to share at this time.
- We have been and will continue to encourage those within our district community to be vigilant and to speak up, if they see, hear or know anything related to these incidents or any other.

#### **Safety Precautions – Where we are and where we’re going**

- Where we are
  - Brought on two shifts of armed guards in addition to regular guards – will continue with their presence
  - Adding more cameras
  - Increased vigilance by all on campus

- Limiting points of entry
  - Working with BETA to carry safety precautions complex wide
- Where we're going (Future)
  - Additional fencing and forcing visitors and traffic into specific areas through redesign of front entrance of STPA

### **Call to Action**

- We try to maintain a small, caring campus community, and we make every effort to get to know our students on a personal basis and to make them feel comfortable with speaking to us about things that are going on, but we cannot surpass the relationship that you – the parents – have with your children. You know them best, and you are in a position to have a profound impact when it comes to what has become a pattern.
- This is a relatively new problem to us. Never before have we had to grapple with these types of threats, but unfortunately it has become a frequent occurrence everywhere. We are not the only district dealing with these types of threats.
- These threats are not funny to any of us. They cannot be taken lightly, and they cause those within the campus community unnecessary anxiety.
- When the student/students who are making the threats are caught, they will be held accountable and punished to the highest extent possible.
- We need you as parents to know what your children are doing. Not all threats are occurring at school and on school time. Please monitor the activity of your children and know what they have on their minds, in their backpacks and on their phones.
- Please talk to them about speaking up, if they know anything.
- Edinburg P.D. TIPS line – 383-TIPS (8477)
- Safety is a team effort. We are doing all that we can on our end to ensure the safety of your children while they are at school, but we need your help at home.
- Please be understanding of the fact that we cannot share all of the details with you, but trust that we will share those details that can be shared. We are not trying to hide anything from you.
- Whoever is making these threats is likely looking to get a reaction and to create chaos, and this is achieved when we overpublicize things and allow these things to become divisive. We need to stand together united in our efforts to stop this pattern and to find and address the source.
- We respectfully ask you to refrain from publicizing details pertaining to these incidents, as it does nothing to help the issue, but rather provokes others outside to become a part of what is going on and exacerbates the problem.
- Pointing out things that you think could be improved in a public area – social media, for instance – could help you to relieve your frustrations, but it truly puts your children at an even greater risk, as it highlights areas for access to a wide audience, some of which might be interested in causing harm. Please keep this in mind when deciding whether or not to post something.
  - If you have ideas or concerns, please reach out to us directly.

### **Question & Answer**