

Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to speak to you about a topic that has been on all our minds lately, and hopefully clear up any confusion that is out there. First of all, let me state without reservation that the safety of our students and our staff is the number one priority of our district. In the times we live in now, no threat or comment can be left uninvestigated and we must be tireless in our efforts to keep our schools safe.

With that being said, we have consulted with the Kentucky State Police, the Kentucky Center for School Safety, and a number of similar school districts in an effort to be as current with all safety procedures as we can possibly be. We met with Mr. Jon Akers Executive Director of the KY Center for School Safety on Monday at Corbin High School and he shared the latest data and trends with us in reference to this topic. He also spoke to specific issues in our district and gave recommendations on a number of items. We had school and district personnel in attendance as well as members of the media.

I spoke to Mr. Shane Romines (a local attorney) yesterday and thanked him for his efforts toward making our district a safer place. Our conversation covered several areas of concern we both share, and I also spoke to him about the information that Mr. Akers went over with us. We agreed that we both desire the same thing...a safe, nurturing school environment that all of our students can be a part of. As far as the offer of financial help from Mr. Romines, I told him that we definitely have a need for funding as our state budget is *potentially* going to be cut significantly for the upcoming year. I also shared with him that in discussions with Mr. Akers, he told us that by far the best way to spend limited school safety dollars was to invest in SRO's (School Resource Officers). We currently have two SRO's in place (one at Corbin High and one at Corbin Middle) with both of them going to other schools on an as needed basis. I told Mr. Romines that keeping these officers in our schools is our top priority. He was very gracious and agreed to help in that regard. In reference to metal detectors I shared with Mr. Romines that we would benefit from mobile metal detectors (wands) that could be used on a random basis at different locations. He told me that he could provide these as well. I do want to make one last point in reference to our efforts. This will always be an ongoing process, if we learn that something works better than what we are currently doing, then we will change. If we can learn from our neighbors or through research, then we will do that as well. Every option must be on the table, evaluated and discussed before a final decision is made.

There is no singular cause for school or workplace violence; therefore there is not just one remedy. It takes all of us to combat this problem and we are thankful and encouraged by the support of our community. Mr. Akers also spoke to the fact that information is a very important part of keeping a school community safe. I wanted to remind everyone that we do have two methods of anonymously sharing potentially dangerous information. First we have an anonymous tip **form** that anyone can access. The link to that form is on our district webpage under the parent or student tab (safe school form). That form goes directly to three different administrators immediately and is then sent out to the appropriate people. Secondly, we also have available an anonymous tip line by **phone** and that number is 800-418-6423 ext. 359. If there should be a need for suicide counseling, refer to prompt #3. One other key point that Mr. Akers made was for parents to monitor their child's social media correspondence to the best of their ability. He shared with the group that there had been many potential issues avoided by concerned parents who came across useful information. Thanks again for your support.

David Cox
Superintendent