



# Inter-District Advisory Parent Meeting

Hackettstown and  
Great Meadows Regional School Districts

March 13, 2018

David C. Mango, Superintendent of Schools  
Stephen Speirs, Director of Security

# Focus Points

- History of security within our districts and county
- Security initiatives and accomplishments
- Future security measures

# History

- Fall 2012
  - Prosecutor Burke led county initiatives aligning all verbiage, protocol and process between school districts and law enforcement
- January 31, 2013
  - Hackettstown initial strategic planning meeting
    - Largest NJSBA meeting ever held (273)
    - Centered upon school security following the Sandy Hook Elementary Massacre
- Spring 2013
  - Mr. Speirs was hired to conduct security sites assessments of all Hackettstown facilities

# History

- Summer 2013
  - Director of Security job description was created and adopted by the Hackettstown Board of Education
  - Mr. Speirs was hired as Hackettstown's Director of Security

# Who is Mr. Speirs???

- Retired Lieutenant – 28 years of law enforcement experience
  - 10 years as Police Officer
  - 18 Years with the Prosecutor's Office
- Commander of Tactical Response Team for Warren County
- Commander Narcotics, Guns, Gangs Unit in Warren County
- Supervised Major Crimes Unit
- Supervised Community Policing Unit
- Asst. Director Warren County Police Academy
- Supervised the Special Victims Unit

# School Initiatives and Accomplishments

- 2013-2014 School Year Security Initiatives
  - Hackettstown begins surveillance process
  - Hackettstown continues to assess security procedures, practices and facility infrastructure
  - Partnership with the Prosecutor's Office and local law enforcement continues to grow and remain consistent
  - Hackettstown Board of Education approves security personnel job descriptions for the 2014-2015 school year

# School Initiatives and Accomplishments

- 2014-2015 School Year Security Initiatives
  - Hackettstown hired security personnel district wide
  - The Hackettstown High School was utilized for county-led security table top exercises
  - Spring 2015- NJ DOE conducted six unannounced site visits between the districts
  - Great Meadows began the surveillance process
  - Both districts began the exploration of security film placement and vestibule installations
  - August 2015 – Great Meadows Middle School hosted the summer symposium on school safety – Keeping Our Children Safe: One School At A Time
  - Security surveillance and film added in Hackettstown

# School Initiatives and Accomplishments

- 2015-2016 School Year Security Initiatives
  - Continued efforts and partnerships with local law enforcement and Prosecutor's office
  - We model best practices methods and measures for surrounding districts
  - LobbyGuard purchased and implemented in all Hackettstown Schools
  - Spring 2016 Conducted reunification presentation for the county
  - Summer 2016
    - vestibule installation at Hatchery Hill and Willow Grove schools complete

# School Initiatives and Accomplishments

- 2016-2017 School Year Security Initiatives
  - Fall 2016- Mr. Speirs implemented initial Parent Advisory Committee in Hackettstown
  - Security surveillance added at GMRSD
  - Fall 2017 Both districts purchased GXP program as a county wide initiative
  - Winter 2017 - security personnel approved for special events and functions in GMRSD
  - Spring 2017 – Security film installed at all school facilities in GMRSD
  - Summer 2017 – Vestibule construction completed at HMS, HHS, Central School, Liberty School and GMMS
  - Fall 2017- GMRSD approved the Director of Security job description
  - Dec 2017 both BOE approve Mr. Speirs as the Shared Services Director of Security

# On a Side Note...

- Our district has shared job descriptions, procedure and protocol and security measures with many school districts from Morris, Warren and Sussex counties.
- The partnership with the Prosecutor's office and local law enforcement maintains high levels of professionalism and priority
- Neighboring school districts have conducted site visits as we have become a model security based district

# Going Forward...

- 2018-2019 Budget will reflect the following:
  - LobbyGuard purchase in GMRSD
  - An alert system purchase to assist local, county and state law enforcement officials in both districts
  - Possible security personnel to be added K-8 both districts
- BOE's will ultimately determine final outcomes for possible Class 3 Officers or Armed Security

# Please Remember...

- 2018-2019 District Goals will reflect mental wellness and health at every level of instruction
- Recognize that the majority of school shootings occur in rural and suburban communities
- So not to compromise student/staff safety and validity of the process, details can not always be shared publicly
- Remain vigilant
- Be proactive with your children
- Consistently monitor all social media
- Enforce at home the theory “hear something, say something”