

Centennial School District

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Substitute Superintendent

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Mr. Mark B. Miller
800 Willoppenn Drive
Apt. G-204
Southampton, PA 18966

June 10, 2013

Re: Center for Safe Schools/All-Hazards School Safety Plan


Dear Mr. Miller,

It is with gratitude that I write this letter to thank you for taking the time to attend and participate in the Center for Safe Schools/All-Hazards School Safety Plan meetings. As you know, the topic of school safety is so very important and your participation and assistance in the development of the Centennial School District All-Hazards School Safety Plan is greatly appreciated.

The teams spent a lot of time in good conversation with Don Smith, Jr., our group facilitator, and also with the work groups. Your contributions during the discussions were valuable and helped us to understand multiple viewpoints in our school system. The All-Hazards School Safety Plan will be presented to the district faculty and staff in November and I hope that you will feel a sense of pride and accomplishment when it is presented.

Thank you so much for your contribution to this most important venture.

Sincerely,



Joyce A. Mundy, Ed.D.
Substitute Superintendent

JAM/cr



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Centennial School District Hosts 2013 School Security Outreach Conference

On Tuesday, May 21, 2013, there were no classes scheduled due to Election Day. This was the perfect day for Centennial School District to host the 2013 **"School Security Outreach Training Conference"** at William Tennent High School. The conference began with welcoming comments from Centennial School District's School Board Director, Mark B. Miller and Centennial School District Chief Financial Officer, Chris Berdnik, followed by presentations from United States Homeland Security Advisor, Bill Ryan, Federal Bureau of Investigations Agent, Greg Banis, Director of Bucks County Emergency Services, Scott Forster and Warminster Township Police Chief, James Donnelly. The main topic at the conference was detection of an **"Active Shooter"** type threat in schools.

"Centennial School District is dedicated to do more to protect children, and the more training we can provide, the better prepared we will be. We are honored to be selected to host this event" stated Chris Berdnik, Chief Financial Officer of Centennial School District. The district brought together stakeholders from Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, Delaware, Philadelphia and other surrounding counties tasked with planning for, preventing and responding to security incidents at schools in order to provide resources and to discuss ways to planning for the schools in our community.

Many groups were represented including school superintendents, principals, assistant principals, educators, school crisis management teams, law enforcement, fire chiefs, Board of School Directors, guidance counselors, playground monitors, cafeteria monitors, operation managers, school secretaries, detectives, township supervisors, school resource officers, emergency management teams, transportation supervisors, human resources supervisors, child care directors and others dedicated to our children and communities. It's not a pleasant topic of discussion, but it's necessary. Last December's shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut made people all around the country want to do more to protect children.

"Students need to feel secure and to be safe for learning to occur. In today's world we are not only dedicating our lives to educating our young people, we all play an important role in keeping our children, co-workers, volunteers, substitutes and visitors safe. Together we become the front line of defense in critical situations. From the school guidance counselors and social workers who work with students and families in crisis... to the secretaries and security personnel whose responsibility includes screening access to the buildings... to the principals, teachers, cafeteria, and playground monitors who need to be on alert in all situations... It's our responsibility to be watchful and knowledgeable so that we are fully aware of how to best handle a crisis situation," said Dr. Joyce Mundy, Assistant Superintendent of Centennial School District.

Today was a great opportunity to come together as a group and to learn valuable tools that can be shared in schools and child care facilities. The conference was kept under wraps to the general public because of the classified materials and severity of the topic. It was designed to educate those who work with children and those who protect the public and private schools in the communities. It's important to be selective when sharing or allowing access to information that could help prevent or be applied in a crisis situation.

"We must be vigilant about safety and always be prepared. All of us have an important responsibility to protect the lives of our children and staff," said Dennis Best, Principal of William Tennent High School.

The session focused on preparing for an Active Shooter Situation, creating an Emergency Action Plan and conducting drills to prepare and respond effectively and help minimize loss of life. There was input from several stakeholders. "It is important that we all adopt the survival mindset during times of crisis," said Andrea DiDio, Human Resources Supervisor of Centennial School District.

Those in attendance provided feedback regarding the training. One attendee offered that "the training opened the lines of communication with area schools and police departments and expanded existing relationships." Another attendee commented that "when you know better, you do better! The guest was very grateful for this event as their church related pre-school is actively working on security issues right now."

At the conclusion of the session, a Safety Resource Officer from a neighboring district thanked the Assistant Superintendent and said he was grateful to Centennial School District and William Tennent High School for inviting him. It's not often that we all come together like this and have an opportunity to work with U.S Homeland Security, F.B.I, Law Enforcement and other educators. Another guest said it opened her eyes and brought to light some things that her school could work on improving. She now has important tools that she will bring back to her own school district.

Centennial School Board Director, Mark B. Miller commented, "We were pleased to welcome our colleagues and partners in student safety to Centennial School District. Prevention is the first piece of the puzzle. We look forward to discussing response and recovery through similar events in the near future."