

# Chippewa Valley Schools presents on safety measures, drills and protocols

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District safety measures, drills and protocols were recently discussed at a Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education meeting. Crews are pictured installing additional technology in the lobby of the Chippewa Valley Schools Administration Building in June 2019.

File photo provided by Diane Blain

**CLINTON/MACOMB TOWNSHIPS** — Taking action in emergency situations, reviewing safety plans and more were discussed at the latest Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education meeting.

At the Jan. 24 meeting, Don Brosky, assistant superintendent of educational services, presented on district safety measures, drills and protocols.

“After passing our Safe Schools, Strong Schools bond, we engaged Clinton Township Police, Macomb County Sheriff’s Department, Macomb County homeland security experts and Macomb County SWAT to discuss what they felt would be the best use of our bonds to improve school safety,” he said.

In 2018, voters approved the \$97 million bond, which deals with security enhancements at existing buildings and facilities.

Superintendent Ron Roberts said, for a few years now, there have been planning requirements the district had to meet so that its schools are as safe as possible.

Brosky said steps the district has taken include emergency alert systems, classroom emergency buttons, card swipe access and buzzer systems at entrances, classroom doors locking from the inside, and security guards at the high schools.

He noted that, in 2019, Chippewa Valley was one of the first Macomb County districts to have risk and vulnerability assessments done for all schools.

“Many of the recommendations from the assessment have been addressed,” Brosky said.

The assistant superintendent noted that he and Executive Director for Secondary Education Paul Sibley are members of the Macomb County School Safety Group, which worked in collaboration with the Macomb County Office of Emergency Management to create a county safety plan to submit to the Michigan State Police every two years.

Sibley spoke at the meeting about taking action in emergency situations. He said that he and Executive Director for Elementary Education Marina Licari recently met with school building administrators, reviewing safety plans to make sure that safety plans from Macomb County are reflected in posters that are placed in classrooms.

“Posters give teachers and students an idea of what kinds of situations we could come across,” Sibley said. “

Wording on the poster includes terms like hold, secure, lockdown, evacuate and shelter.

“Hold can be used for health emergencies, cleanup or when there’s a situation outside of one of our buildings that is being monitored,” Sibley said. “Secure is when you don’t want outside visitors coming into the building and you don’t want students exiting the building.”

He noted that lockdowns are what is being talked about most recently and that students practice barricading classroom doors and what it might look like should someone get in a classroom.

“A lockdown situation is where we would implement avoid, deny, defend training that we’ve been working on with students and staff,” Sibley said.

Moving forward, he commented that it is an expectation from building administrators to communicate with communities when they have a lockdown drill.

“They may not do this for a fire or tornado drill, but they will let you know if they’re going to run a lockdown drill in the building, and you’ll be notified right after the drill has concluded,” Sibley said.

Also at the meeting, 20 people spoke during the community comments, which lasted about one hour. A majority of the comments dealt with the district’s mask mandate.