

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018
WORK SESSION ~ SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE
Scappoose Council Chambers
33568 East Columbia Avenue

Call to Order

Mayor Burge called the Work Session to order at 6:33 p.m.

Present: Mayor Scott Burge, Council President Mark Reed, Councilor Patrick Kessi, Councilor Megan Greisen, Councilor Josh Poling, City Manager Michael Sykes, Legal Counsel Peter Watts, Office Administrator Kim Mann, and CDC Administrator Elizabeth Happala.

Present in the audience: Courtney Vaughn with the Spotlight

Chief Norm Miller spoke about School Safety and his video, I Love You Guys.



Chief Miller and Troy have been keeping stats on what they've been doing in the schools and they broke it down for the last 3 months. Categories are: calls for service, alcohol and marijuana issues, weapons calls, the times Troy spends at each school, and classes taught. They are teaching a lot more classes, which was one of their goals. Parent and teacher contact, which includes if a teacher has an issue or wants to discuss something, student contact, and traffic enforcement duties are all being tracked. Troy has exceeded Norm's expectations as the SRO, everybody at the school has nothing but good things to say about Troy; the teachers, the students, the staff, he's always available for them, which works out very well.

The school adopted the video, "I Love You Guys" years ago. When Chief Miller showed this video at school, he asked everyone in the room who has been taught this and out of 10 people only 1 person raised their hand. So right then he and Troy decided that's a priority. They sat down with Paul Peterson and then went to training with Mr. Keys, who did the presentation that you just listened to. Mr. Keys' daughter was taken hostage and killed in a school shooting and there weren't any protocols. The officers did their best, but the room was barricaded and there

were so many different things about that aspect. The last text she sent them was, "I love you guys" and that's where this foundation came from. Everything they have online is free, their PowerPoint, their presentations, their kits, everything is free. He and Troy went through the training, they taught themselves and offered it to the school to bring the school together and let them teach the school, let them teach the teachers, let them teach the kids, and let them teach the parents. They first met with the Middle School and High School teachers and they did the I Love You Guys presentation, which was received very well. In February he's going to give the presentation to City Council during a work session and he's hoping people will come and sit in the audience and watch and listen because it's pretty self-explanatory and it doesn't get very technical, and it's very easy to use. He whole-heartedly believes in it, and he and Troy are both teaching it.

They assisted the school district with their 2-way radio system, which wasn't very good. They brought in a company and did a bunch of testing for different locations in schools to see if they could talk to schools or if the school district could talk to each other. They formulated a plan, which is in Paul Peterson's hands now, in regard to the fact that they have different channels. Each school needs to buy 75 portable radios to help out with their school being able to have communication. They'd have communication with the maintenance staff since, when asked, how do you know you're on lockdown, they did not know to notify maintenance. So, they are working on purchasing those radios. Troy just ordered the reunification kits; if you go on the I Love You Guys website you can see the kits. Every school will have one, including the Police Department. The biggest thing he hears from teachers is, "This is Scappoose, it's not going to happen to us." His response is always the same, "how many of those schools that have had that happen have said the exact same thing?" As a Police Department and as a City we are taking this seriously, so were moving forward with this.

At Otto Petersen the shrubs have been trimmed way back, and you can see that all around the schools and a lot of the doors have been fixed. They just did their first lock-down drill the other day. His question to the school was, when was the last time you did a lock down drill? It wasn't happening. Fire drills happen every month. How many kids die from fires? Zero. So now they're doing the lock down drills, which is great. Peterson did it, Warren did it. The Middle School was already doing it. Most schools are now doing routine checks of their doors, are they in working order, are they staying locked when they close, when they push the button to lock down the whole school are the doors locking, etc. The Middle School is working on gates and fencing. Chief Miller will be going to the next school board meeting to talk about all of this and to stress to them that we need to take this seriously. He and Troy have made it their goal to make this happen.

Council President Reed asked if any of the schools are in this situation because of the way they were built originally, where they can't take precautions?

Chief Miller replied sure, there are limitations, but we've found ways that help with those limitations like the gates and the fencing going down the breezeway. They've gone above and beyond to look at better ways. Troy, himself, the maintenance people, the superintendent, and

the principal for each school have done a walk around at each school and they note things they see, and they are actually getting fixed right away.

Councilor Kessi asked what schools are the weapons calls from, are they the upper grades?

Chief Miller replied somewhere at Petersen.

Councilor Kessi asked is Troy at the High School too?

Chief Miller replied yes, about 60% of his time is at the High School.

Councilor Kessi asked Nationwide, is that where the majority of shootings happen, in High School?

Chief Miller replied its kind-of cut across the board where those happen, there's no way to say that it's going to happen at a High School. Nowadays, it's more like, where is it going to happen? At a theatre, a shopping center, a hospital?

Councilor Greisen commented that a shooter is not always a student.

Chief Miller replied correct. When you study this, which he's done a lot of studying on active shooters, and active shooters have a mindset, they have a plan, and they're going to execute it, so they already have the upper hand on us. Most active shootings take 3 minutes and it's over, and that's hard to respond to. That's why you see us pushing why we need a guard at every school. You have 2500 kids spread out at 4 schools, it's hard to be there, but you have to do your best and he thinks we do that. We have plans for all of those schools, we've trained in all of those schools, and we've never had an incident that we haven't been able to contain. They have some great officers that work for this department that are highly trained and take it seriously. When they do the training for the schools, they try to do it when nobody is around. They bring up things that SS Command doesn't even think about and they make changes. With Troy having his SWAT experience it's like having the best of the best you can have in there. Every officer from Scappoose Police Department that's going to respond is highly trained.

Councilor Greisen commented that Troy has gone above and beyond and she wants to thank him personally and she feels like in his career it's perfect timing when he can say that he loves what he does, and shows up doing what he loves every day, that's the person you want in this position. He's very dedicated, he does not take it lightly, and he holds that responsibility very highly. Would you find it beneficial to follow-up the encouragement of radios and other devices or trainings that we attend the budget meeting for the school district to make sure that they are following up?

Chief Miller replied sure, every bit of showing that you are behind it will help.

Councilor Greisen replied in regard to school trainings, is there anything on the calendar to follow up in different buildings with staff on these trainings?

Chief Miller replied yes, Troy is working on that with Otto Petersen and Grant Watts for their next in-service day. They're going to do them separate because of the way their classes are, and they're going to have a make-up day to catch it again if you weren't able to make it; he feels it should be mandatory, it's your job to know this.

Councilor Greisen replied, as an educator, your responsibility is to those students.

Chief Miller replied if you go into a middle school or high school, you'll see a clip board with I Love You Guys protocol, they are all laminated and on the back they have a class roster of who's supposed to be in their class. He taught them that every 15 minutes when they get to a location, they take class attendance and document the time. That's part of the training.

Councilor Greisen stated that Chief Miller mentioned that certain buildings aren't staying on top of lockdown practice. Is there some sort of follow-up or lock down schedule to hold those buildings accountable, or are we just trusting at this point, or saying the expectation is that you do this once every 8 weeks, or once a month, or have we verbalized that to them?

Chief Miller replied yes, we have verbalized that to them and that's the nice thing about having Troy there working at the schools because he's right there to say hey, let's get this done. He does a good job of it; like with the reunification kits, he was able to say where are these, let's get these ordered. Troy went right in, got it handled, and they're on the way as we speak.


Councilor Greisen replied it's not that it's a priority it's just another thing to stay on top of and she's so glad that Troy's there to help manage that. She was already going to be in attendance at the next school board meeting, so if there's anything that she can do to help them push this through or to communicate this, please let her know.

Chief Miller thanked Councilor Greisen.

Mayor Burge thanked Chief Miller for the presentation, and asked Chief to thank Troy for all of his hard work as well.


Adjournment

Mayor Burge adjourned the Work Session at 6:50 p.m.



Mayor Scott Burge

Attest:



Office Administrator, Kimberly Mann