

# Enhancing School Safety in Roane County

Protecting Innocence  
and  
Our Most Precious Resource.  
**OUR CHILDREN**

Submitted by the Roane County Board of Education

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Executive Summary #33

# U.S. Secret Service Safe Schools Initiative Report

- The U.S. Secret Service is the world's leading authority on threat assessment. The Safe Schools Initiative Report concentrated on a sampling of school shooting incidents to develop a threat assessment on school shootings and violence-based data accumulated from a small sample.
- If the following results are based on a small sample imagine the results for a larger data sample and the resulting implications!

# Ten Findings of the Safe Schools Initiative Report

Incidents of targeted violence at school rarely were sudden, impulsive acts.

Prior to most incidents, other people knew about the attacker's idea and/or plan to attack.

Most attackers did not threaten their targets directly prior to advancing the attack.

There is no accurate or useful "profile" of students who engaged in targeted school violence.

Most attackers engaged in some behavior prior to the incident that caused others concern or indicated a need for help.

# Ten Findings of the Safe Schools Initiative Report Continued

Most attackers had difficulty coping with significant losses or personal failures. Moreover, many had considered or attempted suicide

Many attackers felt bullied, persecuted or injured by others prior to the attack.

Most attackers had access to and had used weapons prior to the attack.

In many cases, other students were involved in some capacity.

Despite prompt law enforcement responses, most shooting incidents were stopped by means other than law enforcement intervention.

# Safe Schools Report Continued

- Just over 25% of the incidents were stopped through law enforcement intervention.
- Close to half (47%) of the incidents were known to last 15 MINUTES OR LESS from the beginning of the shooting to the time the attacker was apprehended, surrendered or stopped shooting.
- 27% of the incidents were over within 5 MINUTES of their inception.
- **What this means is that most incidents were stopped before the actual incident took place through proper intervention by health, staff, and other students or as a result of the elapsed time of the incident.**

# Safe School Initiative Report

The Safe School Initiative identified 37 incidents involving 41 attackers that met the study definition of targeted school violence and occurred between 1974 and the end of the 2000 school year. These incidents took place in 26 states, with more than one incident occurring in Arkansas, California, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee.

# School Shooting Characteristics

**73 %** of the shooting incidents resulted in one or more staff, faculty, or others being killed.

**24%** of the remaining incidents involved the use of a weapon to injure at least one person.

**59%** of the attacks occurred during the school day.

**95%** of the attacks were carried out where the assailant was a current student.

**100%** were committed by male students.

**81%** were attacks by a lone assailant, but **11%** had assistance in planning from others!

**24%** of the remaining incidents involved the use of a weapon to injure at least one person.

# What is the number of school shootings?

- Between Feb. 2, 1996 and Dec. 14, 2012 there have been in **excess of 90** school shootings worldwide.
- At least **14** of these have occurred in Tennessee or states bordering Tennessee.
- At least **7 shootings have occurred in Tennessee** in that same time period.
- **This does not count other incidents of violence committed against students or staff such as the recent stabbings in Texas or attacks using other devices. If those were counted the number would be far greater as these are the types of violent acts that are most likely to occur.**

# Sandy Hook Shooting

- No School Resource Officer assigned to the SH school.
- SH was one of the most secure schools in Connecticut.
- Lanza was able to penetrate the security.
- **Between 9:46 and 9:49 AM, Lanza was able to get off 154 rounds of ammunition.**
- Many of the victims were shot multiple times.
- Shootings confined to one area of the school.

# Undesired Fact

- We live in a free and open society where individual rights are placed above the rights of society as a whole.
- Unspoken SCHOOL SAFETY MISSION nationwide:  
To provide a safe environment for children and staff in an atmosphere that to the best of our ability is a safe and secure environment.

Unfortunately, in our society, providing this security is an expensive and difficult proposition. While our mission is to provide a safe environment we are really working to **REDUCE THE CASUALTY RATES WHEN SUCH INCIDENTS OCCUR.**

# Statement Continued

- While reducing casualties is not the most desirable goal it is the most practical and obtainable goal.
- Schools **SHOULD NOT** be a fortress!
- They should be the focal point of community involvement focused on teaching the children of today how to become the adult leaders of tomorrow!

# How do we accomplish this in Roane County?

- Supplementing the present complement of School Resource Officers (SRO) with additional officers.
- Installation of a modern digital video surveillance system capable of monitoring daily activities and providing emergency responders with secure access to the system.
- Regular comprehensive county-wide agency involvement in disaster drill planning and execution.



# Roane County Schools Demographics

- Six High Schools (includes Midtown Alternative Center)
- Five Middle Schools
- Six Elementary Schools
- The student population as of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 was 6,834  
This figure does not include the staff and support personnel at each school.

# Secure Entrances at Schools

- Each Roane County school will have a secure entrance completed by the beginning of the 2013-14 school year.
- This is being accomplished under the present funding budget of the Board of Education. **No Additional funding is requested for this project.**
- Secure entrances will funnel all visitors through the office providing a layer of security preventing unauthorized or unknown person from entering the building without the knowledge of school staff.

# Requested Video Surveillance System

- **Complete System Installation Cost Estimate**

The total cost for installation of cameras in every school is approximately \$1,100,000. This is a one time capital outlay expense. Recurring maintenance costs are built into the existing school budget.

The system is upgradable!

# Video Surveillance System

- The video system will provide staff, law enforcement, EMS, and Fire Services with real-time monitoring of incidents pinpointing the location and providing valuable visual information to responders.
- The system will also provide security the ability to monitor events in schools providing an additional tool in the detection of criminal acts perpetrated during and after school hours.

# School Resource Officers

- The system presently has six full-time School Resource Officers.
- These officers share two to three schools, some of which are 2 to 3 miles apart.
- The response time for an SRO to get to from one school to another may be as much as 10 minutes. (Getting from one building to the car, getting in the car, driving to another school, getting out of the car, getting inside the school, and confronting the problem.)
- **Lanza fired 154 rounds in 3 minutes.**

# School Resource Officers Cont.

- Present cost for six SROs – Approximately \$300,000 in recurring cost.
- Cost for 12 additional SROs - \$901,608 of which over \$300,000 is a one-time cost.
- Cost for full compliment of 18 SROs is \$901,608 annually.
- This represents an increase in annual recurring expenses of approximately \$600,000.

# The Bottom Line

Full implementation of the requested security upgrades.

One Time Expenditure - \$2.1 million.

Annual recurring expense following full implementation (18 SROs) = \$918,073.

Realized increase in recurring expense to county budget \$600,000.