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July 2018

WSSCA Newsletter

The "news you can use" periodical for Wisconsin's school safety and security professionals

Summer is Here - And a Busy One at That!

Congratulations to WSSCA 1st Vice-President Jeremiah Johnson!

The Wisconsin Public Policy Forum recently named their 2018 "Salute Award Winners. The 2018 Salute awards were being presented to local

Executive Committee

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governments and school districts throughout Wisconsin. Look who is named their “Leader of the Future!”

"Jean B. Tyler Leader of the Future Award"

Jeremiah Johnson

*Director of Operations and Human Resources
Muskego-Norway School District*

In his 16 years with the Muskego-Norway School District, Jeremiah Johnson has risen from a part-time, on-call substitute custodian attending classes at Milwaukee Area Technical College to the district’s Director of Operations and Human Resources. During his tenure, Jeremiah has created a workplace safety initiative that reduced injuries by half and lowered the district’s insurance premium costs by \$100,000, enacted a sustainability program that resulted in \$2 million in energy savings since 2013, led over \$50M in construction projects, and developed a mobile phone application to more effectively and efficiently complete building assessments. As Superintendent Kelly Thompson put it, not only has Jeremiah sought to systematically improve district operations and practices, “he demonstrates amazing talent in his ability to listen to other perspectives and viewpoints, build consensus, problem solve, communicate, and connect with others.”



Register Today!

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Two upcoming WSSCA professional development offerings are scheduled and registration is open for members and guests to attend and participate.

Assessing School Security

Learn How to Conduct a School Security Assessment



We are offering opportunities for school personnel and law enforcement partners to learn how to conduct **a quality school security site assessment** using the tools and supporting theory we have used in more than fifty district assessments to date.

The WSSCA School Security Assessment class will be taught by Ed and Barbara Dorff. Ed and Barbara are both PSP certified (ASIS) and have conducted dozens of school security audits across the state.

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In this class we will cover theory and practices for three major areas of school security: human action, technology, and infrastructure. The class will include lecture, group work and real-time research, and a culminating practical application activity using the assessment instrument to do an actual walk-through in the host school site.

Class Dates and Locations (8:00 am – 4:00 pm):

July 26, 2018: Indian Trails High School, Kenosha Unified School District

August 9, 2018: Patrick Marsh Middle School, Sun Prairie School District

August 16, 2018: Logan High School, La Crosse School District

August 23, 2018: Fischer School, Wauwatosa School District

Class Minimum: 20 Class Maximum: 50

Cost: \$240.00 per participant for WSSCA Member Districts and Law Enforcement

\$260 per participant for non-WSSCA Member Districts and Organizations

Visit wssca.org to register | [Click here for the flyer](#)

Wisconsin Statute 118.07 requires:

*118.07 (4) (b) A school safety plan shall be created with the active participation of appropriate parties..... **Before creating or updating a school safety plan, a school board or governing body of a private school shall, in consultation with a local law***

enforcement agency, conduct an on-site safety assessment of each school building, site, and facility that is regularly occupied by pupils. The on-site assessment shall include playgrounds, athletic facilities or fields, and any other property that is occupied by pupils on a regular basis.

WSSCA has been conducting such assessments since 2013, and now the State is calling for every public and private school to conduct an on-site assessment. **Best practice for such assessments is to ensure objectivity through independent evaluation, but WSSCA certainly does to have the capacity to get to all 422 districts.**

Basic Digital Threat Assessment (DTA) Training

WSSCA SPONSORED

**Training for School Administrators, Law Enforcement and
Front-Line Community Agencies (1 Day Training)**

Limited to First 50 Registrants!

Register Today



Digital Threat Assessment was developed through the need to keep pace with the ever-evolving technology challenges that face our students currently. These challenges have entered the education domain with force and have overwhelmed school district staff throughout the world.

The goal is to give attendees a stronger understanding of the current social media world, tools to be able to proactively identify student safety concerns, and to provide strategies for dealing with online situations as they arise. All aspects of school safety and threats to schools now involve a social media or online component and we need to be prepared.



Name: Digital Threat Assessment

Date: July 25, 2018

Time: Sign in at 8:15 a.m. Session runs from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Venue: Waukesha County Technical College

Fee: \$240 for WSSCA members, \$260 for non-members.(\$20.00 for Lunch)

Summer School Safety



Note: *Shelly Weiss, Sun Prairie's Director of Summer School Programs, and long-time WSSCA contributor and member has shared this excellent article with us. While it was written with her District in mind, it has a lot of good points for those offering summer programming. Ed*

The Sun Prairie Area School District personnel continually assess their safety and security practices, identifying ways they can improve. Numerous activities have been added and embedded into the Summer School programs. The Sun Prairie Summer School program offers a 3 or 6-week program for the youngest learners in the district, students who will be entering 5 year old Kindergarten (from the 4 year old Kindergarten program) in the fall of the upcoming school year. Leaders recognized that this was the perfect opportunity to teach the youngest learners and their parents/guardians practices that would increase their safety and security immediately and in the future.

Parents/guardians of all students are sent information on General Traffic Safety and the Traffic Safety Plans for every Summer School site. The plans have been developed to provide consistent information to parents/guardians. In addition to written information, the plans include color-coded maps for each school letting parents/guardians and students know where they can drive, park, drop off, and pick up students. This helps to prepare the parents/guardians of about 4-5,000 students for both Summer School and the upcoming regular school year. The information and traffic plans are developed collaboratively with the Principals of each school, the District Operations Department, and the Sun Prairie Police Department.

The Sun Prairie Area School District Summer School is very large and every one of the seven sites conducts a fire drill in June and July in compliance with state statute. The Fire Department is invited to participate in the drills. This is also an opportunity for students, particularly the youngest students to meet and interact with fire-fighters. The drills are debriefed and documented, just as they are during the regular school year. The fire drills in Summer School help the youngest



students to learn more about how to effectively evacuate during a drill at a larger school than they have attended in the past.

The teachers of students in the youngest grades (pre-K-2) show the students a video about following instructions of crossing guards and traffic safety. They use the videos as the basis for discussions. Crossing Guards from the district visit the classrooms of the youngest students in the “Kickoff to Kindergarten (K2K)” classes to add information and answer questions. Over the course of the summer, the students in these classes will participate in formal bus training. The School District in collaboration with Kobussen Transportation Company developed a comprehensive training plan about bus safety. The District is fortunate to have a former Police Liaison Officer who also works with elementary students to learn the safe Playworks program who agreed to take on the task of training all of the K2K students, along with a driver from the bus company. We have approximately six K2K classes at each of the four elementary school sites in Summer School. The students in each of these classes will view a video on bus safety, participate in lessons, and practice safety procedures on a bus that will travel to each of the sites over the six weeks of Summer School. Prior to the end of Summer School, the trainer will revisit the classes. Additionally, the folks involved in our Pre-K program have provided an age-appropriate booklet that will be sent home with each of the students.

Finally, every teacher in Summer School is reminded of the highly visible Emergency Procedures that are posted at the entry of every room in the district. We ask they use these procedures to help reinforce what is taught throughout the school year.

At the end of the Summer, the Summer School Director will survey the teachers of the K2K students to gather information on their perception if the additional safety training was beneficial. The District will use the information to continue to make improvements for the regular school year and for Summer School 2019.

For additional information, please contact Shelley Joan Weiss, Sun Prairie Area School District, sjweiss@sunprairieschools.org.

News from DOJ Office of School Safety



AG Schimel Appoints Beloit Police Lieutenant Kristen A. Devitt Director of the DOJ Office of School Safety

Jun 25 2018

MADISON, Wis. – Attorney General Brad Schimel announced today the appointment of **Kristen A. Devitt to the position of Director of the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS)**. Devitt, who has more than 600 hours of specialized police/child welfare training, is currently Lieutenant of Patrol at the Beloit Police Department, where she oversees school resource officers (SRO). Devitt is also a part-time instructor for the National Association of School Resource Officers.

“Lieutenant Devitt is the ideal candidate to lead the Office of School Safety,” said Attorney General Schimel. “It’s very clear, from Devitt’s background and experience, that she will be able to successfully administer the school safety grant program, as well as provide her extensive knowledge of school safety to local law enforcement and school districts as they make our schools the safest in the nation.”

Since the beginning of Devitt’s career, she has been passionate about the relationship between students and law enforcement officers. After graduating from Illinois State University in 1999 with a Bachelor’s Degree in

Sociology, Devitt provided K-12 SRO services while an officer at the LaSalle, Illinois Police Department. After her time at the LaSalle Police Department, Devitt began a career as a police officer in the Madison Police Department. Three of Devitt's eight years at the Madison Police Department were spent as an educational resource officer at Madison East High School. After leaving the Madison Police Department, Devitt served as Police Academy Director at Blackhawk Technical College before joining the Beloit Police Department. Devitt also holds a Master's Degree in Education from UW-Platteville.

Devitt will begin her new role on Monday, July 9, 2018.

Blueprint Requirements

Section 29 of [2017 Wisconsin Act 143](#) established a *July 1, 2018 deadline* for school boards and private schools to provide "blueprints" of each school building and facility to each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over any portion of the school district, and to the Office of School Safety.

The Office of School Safety interprets "blueprints" as a floor plan or school map that shows doors, windows, stairways, room numbers, and other information immediately useful to law enforcement, fire, and EMS responders, to locate and respond to a crisis location. Applicants should not submit architectural plans. Applicants for School Safety Initiative grant funds were able to apply for funds to comply with this requirement.

1. If you uploaded these files when you applied for School Safety Initiative grant funds, you have met this requirement. No further action is required to meet the July 1, 2018 deadline.
2. If you have not yet uploaded these documents, please follow these instructions to meet the July 1, 2018 deadline:

- a. Blueprints should be submitted as a [zip file](#) using the following naming convention:
 - b. Public school district naming convention: [Mailing ZIP Code of School District Office]_[School District Number]_[Name of School District].zip. For example, the Abbotsford School district would submit the following zip file: 54405_0007_Abbotsford_School_District.zip. School district numbers can be found [here](#)
 - c. Private school naming convention: [Mailing ZIP Code of School]_[LEA Code]_[School Code]_[School Name].zip. For example, the Abbotsford Christian Academy would submit the following zip file: 54405_0007_0005_Abbotsford_Christian_Academy.zip. LEA and School Codes can be found [here](#).
3. Submit your blueprints zip file through the following link: <https://widoj.sharefile.com/r-r300f5e9a30848d79>
 4. If you run into technical difficulties or need a time accommodation, please contact schoolsafety@doj.state.wi.us.

Be the First to Know!

Would you like to be the first to be notified of upcoming grants? Do you want important school safety information and resources delivered directly to your inbox? Please subscribe to future communications by providing your email address here: http://eepurl.com/dy_kmX.

Grant Status

The deadline for School Safety Initiative grant applications was June 8th. Since then the DOJ has awarded more than 181 grants to the 735 applicants. We continue to award grants as quickly as possible. While I can't provide

an estimate on when any particular grant will be awarded, our goal has always been to award grants so that schools have at least some time over the summer to make improvements in time for the upcoming school year. (Please remember that grant-funded work must not begin until the grant award letter has been signed and returned to the DOJ.)



Note: *This brief article is not a sales platform. Jack Wilfong of Tru-Lock & Security, a long-time WSSCA member, often shares tips about security with WSSCA, and many members are now looking at installing or updating access systems with the grant dollars. Ed*

Card Access Systems

Thinking of a new card access system or modifying an existing system? You may want to consider the following:

1. With card access you will be able to determine who enters and when. The system can be fine-tuned to protect both the facility and the card carrier.
2. Cards are very hard to duplicate and you may never need to re-key again.
3. Carefully choose the type of access card to be used. Cards may also be used for identification as well as for vending and school purchases including books, meals, equipment and parking.
4. Most cards can be inactivated, removed or modified quickly and easily.

5. The system should be sized in order to provide for possible expansion. Standard systems are built on platforms to accept 8,16 or 32 card readers per unit. Multiple units may be ganged together to enhance expansion.
6. Specific cards, or the entire system can be locked out by the Administrator.
7. Temporary cards may be issued to start and finish on specific dates and times. This eliminates the need for temporary key issue and the threat of key duplication.

Jack Wilfong Member WSSCA

What About Metal Detectors?



Note: *This is a very current topic, and when I attended the CESA Purchasing Vendors meeting in Whitewater recently, we met a representative from a company that offers this technology. Obviously, it is a local decision, but I know that it's a question many of us are addressing. This article comes directly from the News & Updates from the REMS TA Center, Summer 2018. Ed*

Considering the Use of Metal Detectors in Schools?

Metal detectors can be one component of a comprehensive school violence and safety program that works to prevent weapons from entering school buildings under the direction of law enforcement partners. Some education agencies use metal detectors regularly to inspect all students, while others use the technology for random inspections. According to the [2017 Indicators of School Crime and Safety](#), approximately 1.8% of public schools required students to pass through metal detectors daily and 4.5% used random metal detectors on students in the 2015-2016 school year. Research related to the effectiveness of metal detectors in reducing violence in schools is limited. One study, [Impacts of Metal Detector Use in Schools: Insights From 15 Years of Research, reviewed 15 years of research](#). It concluded that there is insufficient data in the literature to determine whether the presence of metal detectors in schools reduces the risk of violent behavior among students, and some research suggests that the presence of metal detectors may detrimentally impact student perceptions of safety.



However, the effectiveness of metal detectors can be increased through programming that includes collaboration with community partners, ongoing data collection and analysis to inform continual improvement of processes, clear policies and procedures about use and privacy, appropriate and regular training of screening personnel, and clear expectations of student behavior at the school.

For many schools, the use of metal detectors is not feasible and is not considered an effective practice due to drawbacks, such as **perceived negative effects to school climate**. (For reference, see the National Association of School Psychologists' [School Security Measures and Their Impact on Students Research Summaries](#)). In addition to the presence of metal detectors possibly affecting student perceptions of safety, other downsides to using the technology include the associated installation and maintenance labor and costs; the staff and training needed to monitor and use the equipment; and the need for a private area to conduct more detailed examinations if alarms go off. Further difficulties can arise because of the time constraints of the typical or non-typical school day and the flow of people in and out of the building. These people can include large groups of students accessing the building after being dropped off by buses; classes or individual students entering the building during the school day, such as after field trips or appointments; and students, staff, and

visitors entering the building after school hours for extracurricular activities.

A downside to using metal detectors in schools is that there is no proven effectiveness in reducing violence in schools. Planning teams may want to implement other resources, systems, and processes to reduce violence. One way to help increase school safety and security, and to nurture a supportive climate, is through the development of a comprehensive, all-hazards emergency operations plan (EOP). Get recommendations for how to create, review, or revise an EOP via the six-step planning process using the [Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#) (School Guide).

A yellow speech bubble icon with a drop at the bottom, containing the text "PROFESSIONAL LEARNING".

PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING

Upcoming Certification Training!

Certification Course Modules 4 and 9

October 25, 2018

Holiday Inn Madison at The American Center
Madison, WI 53718

Click to Register

If you are interested in learning more about our school safety coordinators certification program click [here](#).

Quotes of the Month

“Those who cannot understand how to put their thoughts on ice should not enter into the heat of debate.”
- Friedrich Nietzsche

“It is time for us to stand and cheer for the doer, the achiever, the one who recognizes the challenge and does something about it.” --Vince Lombardi

Borrowed Humor



School Safety Certification
2017 Course Schedule

Modules	Course Titles	Dates	Location
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4 & 8	Playground Maintenance and Supervision, Bloodborne Pathogens, Ergonomics, Safety codes regarding drills, fire extinguishers and evacuations & School Threat and Vulnerability Assessment	October 25, 2018	Madison, WI
5 & 9	Sound Risk Management Practices & School Post Incident Recovery and Planning	February 6 & 7, 2019	Wisconsin Dells, WI
6 & 10	General Aspects of Crisis and Emergency Management for Schools & Putting it all together, Emergency Response Table Top and Exercise Practicum	April 2019	Madison, WI

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