



*Pathway to the Future*

## District Safety Committee Newsletter



### Safety Committee Upcoming 19/20 School Year Meeting Dates:

September 3, 2019 1:30pm at  
BUSD Corporation Yard

October 1, 2019 1:30pm at  
BUSD District Office

November 5, 2019 1:30pm at  
Ruskin Elementary

December 3, 2019 1:30pm at  
Sierramont Middle School

January 7, 2020 1:30pm at  
Piedmont Middle School

February 4, 2020 1:30pm at  
Morrill Middle School

March 3, 2020 1:30pm at  
BUSD Corporation Yard

April 7, 2020 1:30pm at  
BUSD District Office

May 5, 2020 1:30pm at  
Ruskin Elementary

## Safety Committee Goals for the 2018-2019 School Year

- Addition of a digital frequency for the Maintenance, Grounds, Transportation, and Custodial Departments. Integration of digital frequency include access to district emergency channel.
- Update and standardize School Site Evacuation Maps. Update Maps will include locations of Utility Shut offs, AED's, Fire Ex. etc.
- Review and recommend Emergency Management and Communications Software for implementations as part of our safety protocols.

### Safety Committee Participants:

Dan Norris, Jill Tamashiro, Maria Smith, Colleen Fanciullo, Kris Kamandulis, Gokcen Ceran, Anthony Alberts, Cathy Aguilar, Gin Pender (Co-Chair) and Miguel Cruz (Chair)

# Safety Committee Updates:

## Did you know?

During the 2018-2019 school year an average of seven (7) workplace injuries were sustained by district employees during each month. A significant amount of these total injuries reported were sustained by staff that supports our Special Education programs. During the same time frame described, all school sites reported an average of twenty-five (25) student accidents each month (Average of two per school site). A significant amount of these student injuries reported are taking place while students are at play (i.e. during recess, lunch, and P.E). As a committee we will continue to review all injuries of staff and students at each safety committee meeting and work to develop strategies to help prevent these type of injuries from occurring.

## Emergency Preparedness Update

The BUSD Safety Committee would like to take a moment to recognize all sites for their participation in all District Emergency Preparedness efforts during the recent school year. All sites have completed their mandated trainings and drills as described on the school site safety plans. These efforts included a district-wide earthquake drill, Site-specific Emergency Preparedness Presentations, Fire Drills, Active shooter drills with participation of local first responders, and implementation of a new barricade device. Lots of progress has certainly been achieved with the contributions of all staff. In preparation for the 2019-2020 school year, the committee has begun to reflect and identify areas of opportunity for improvement. We are hopeful to share these strategies with each site by the start of next school year.

## Integrated Pest Management Program

With collaboration from the BUSD MOT department the Safety Committee has updated and approved the Integrated Pest Management Program for our district. The goal of the IPM is to focus long-term prevention or suppression of pests through accurate pest identification, by frequent monitoring for pest presence, by applying appropriate action levels, and by making the habitat less conducive to pests using sanitation and mechanical physical controls. Pesticides that are effective will be used in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment, and only after other options have been shown ineffective. This updated plan is available on the BUSD Webpage.

## Welding, Cutting and Brazing Safety Program

With support from the BUSD MOT department the Safety Committee has approved a Welding, Cutting and Brazing Safety Program. This program is designed as a starting point and collection of useful reference material for supervisors, employees, and the BUSD Safety Committee. The operations included in this program also cross into other program areas that do have written program requirements (e.g. permit-required confined spaces or respiratory protection). Specifics included as part of this plan include precautions for fire preventions, using guards, hazard prevention and control, training, and PPE. This plan is available on the BUSD webpage.

## Talking to Kids about School Safety

School violence and the resulting intense media coverage bring school safety issues to the forefront for all of us. However, children, in particular, may experience anxiety, fear, and a sense of personal risk. Knowing how to talk with your child about school safety issues could be critical in recognizing and preventing acts of violence, and will play an important role in easing fear and anxieties about their personal safety.

To guide parents through discussions about school violence, Mental Health America offers the following suggestions:

- **Encourage children to talk about their concerns and to express their feelings.** Some children may be hesitant to initiate such conversation, so you may want to prompt them by asking if they feel safe at school. When talking with younger children remember to talk on their level. For example, they may not understand the term “violence” but can talk to you about being afraid or a classmate who is mean to them.
- **Talk honestly about your own feelings regarding school violence.** It is important for children to recognize they are not dealing with their fears alone.
- **Validate the child’s feelings.** Do not minimize a child’s concerns. Let him/her know that serious school violence is not common, which is why incidents such as Columbine and Conyers, Georgia, attract so much media attention. Stress that schools are safe places. In fact, recent studies have shown that schools are more secure now than ever before.
- **Empower children to take action regarding school safety.** Encourage them to report specific incidents (such as bullying, threats or talk of suicide) and to develop problem solving and conflict resolution skills. Encourage older children to actively participate in student-run anti-violence programs.
- **Discuss the safety procedures that are in place at your child’s school.** Explain why visitors sign in at the principal’s office or certain doors remain locked during the school day. Help your child understand that such precautions are in place to ensure his or her safety and stress the importance of adhering to school rules and policies.
- **Create safety plans with your child.** Help identify which adults (a friendly secretary, trusted teacher or approachable administrator) your child can talk to if they feel threatened at school. Also ensure that your child knows how to reach you (or another family member or friend) in case of crisis during the school day. Remind your child that they can talk to you anytime they feel threatened.
- **Recognize behavior that may indicate your child is concerned about returning to school.** Younger children may react to school violence by not wanting to attend school or participate in school-based activities. Teens and adolescents may minimize their concerns outwardly, but may become argumentative, withdrawn, or allow their school performance to decline.

- **Keep the dialogue going** and make school safety a common topic in family discussions rather than just a response to an immediate crisis. Open dialogue will encourage children to share their concerns.
- **Seek help when necessary.** If you are worried about a child's reaction or have ongoing concerns about his/her behavior or emotions, contact a mental health professional at school or at your community mental health center. Your local Mental Health Association or the National Mental Health Association's Information Center can direct you to resources in your community.

**The following behaviors are signs that a child may need help:**

- Lack of interest or poor performance in school
- Absence of age-appropriate anger control skills
- Seeing self as always the victim
- Persistent disregard for or refusal to follow rules
- Cruelty to pets or other animals
- Artwork or writing that is bleak or violent or that depicts isolation or anger
- Talking constantly about weapons or violence
- Obsession with violent games and/or TV shows
- Lack of enthusiasm, energy or motivation
- Carrying a weapon to school
- Overreacting to criticism
- Restlessness and agitation
- Bullying
- Misplaced or unwarranted jealousy
- Involvement with or interest in gangs
- Withdrawal from friends and activities

The more signs you see the greater the chance the child needs help. Mental Health America's toll-free Information Line can help parents and teachers find community resources. Mental Health America also provides informational brochures on children's mental health issues, such as a *Teen Survival Guide to Surviving Stress*, *Teen Depression*, *Coping with Loss*, *Youth Violence* and *What Every Child Needs for Good Mental Health*.

Resource: Mental Health America, *Talking to Kids about School Safety*, and Retrieved from: [www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditoins/talking-kids-about-school-safety](http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/conditoins/talking-kids-about-school-safety)