



NOAH A. HETRICK
CHIEF OF POLICE

DIVISION OF POLICE

SAFETY BUILDING
175 WEST WOOSTER STREET
BOWLING GREEN, OHIO 43402-2897
TELEPHONE (419) 352-2571
FAX (419) 353-6491
E-MAIL police@bgohio.org
www.bowlinggreenpolice.org



JUSTIN D. WHITE
DEPUTY CHIEF

March 6, 2018

Board of Education Members and Superintendent Scrucci,

I am writing in response to an inquiry from Board Member Ginny Stewart regarding my recommendation and thoughts on a centralized school district campus. It is one of the primary functions of the Bowling Green Police Division to work with community partners to achieve a safe and secure environment for citizen's to reside, work, and attend school. To this end, I have examined what a centralized campus would mean to providing a secure and safe environment for students and staff. I have concluded for the reasons below that a centralized campus makes good security sense and I support the concept.

- DARE Officer Robin Short was consulted and indicated that she often travels between school buildings multiple times a day. Although her primary position is to teach DARE, she does much more and functions as a school resource officer in each of the district's five buildings. The travel time and distance impacts the efficiency of her response to issues that are brought to her attention by school staff. A centralized campus would allow her quicker response in dealing with the issues that may not rise to the level of criminal conduct but are handled in a manner that contributes to early intervention.
- Presence within the schools by the DARE Officer is a contributing factor in better behavior by the students. Officer Short has indicated that there have been several incidents of fighting and disruptions that have occurred after she left the premises to travel to another building. Her continued presence at a centralized campus may contribute to a reduction of these types of incidents.
- Officers regularly conduct walk through patrols of the school buildings. If each officer were to walk one tour at the centralized campus per shift then there would be an increased officer presence for all grades. Increased officer presence is shown to contribute to greater deterrence of criminal activity by those inside and outside a facility.
- Officers must be familiar with differing school layouts for effective response. Fewer buildings at a central campus coupled with more time on foot patrol will lead to increased knowledge of facilities for emergency response.
- A centralized campus would require fewer resources from the Police and Fire Divisions in the event of an emergency. It has been the practice of the Bowling Green Police Division to pro-



vide an officer to stand by each school building in the event of an crisis situation, threat, or terrorist alert. The Police Division Emergency Operations Plan dictates that an officer be assigned to all five buildings and four private schools in the city. It would require less resources if a centralized campus existed.

- Managing pick up of students in a crisis situation would cause traffic issues in areas of the city not designed for high levels of traffic. Kenwood, Crim, and Conneaut struggle with the basic daily drop off and pickup of students. In a crisis situation, efficient release of students becomes even more problematic. A well designed campus with efficient loading and unloading, adjacent to larger capacity streets such as Poe and Fairview, would be beneficial.
- Having multiple buildings on a campus provides for additional secure space for students and staff in the event the evacuation of a building is required. Currently, evacuation of the elementary schools requires the students and staff to travel on foot or by bus to a location off site and not controlled by Bowling Green Schools. The time spent exposed to external threats and weather conditions would be reduced with a centralized campus.
- The elementary schools are older buildings designed at a time when crime prevention through environmental design was not practiced. Modern buildings are designed with security features that better control access, provide for increased surveillance, and enhanced classroom security. Glass doors, main office space at a distance from entrances, inefficient cooling and ventilation, (requiring opening of doors and windows,) fire suppression, and other deficiencies are identified weak points that newer facilities would remedy.

Respectfully Submitted,



Noah A. Hetrick
Chief of Police