

**For Immediate Release**

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**Ripon Area School District Public School Safety and Security Review**

**Ripon, WI** – At the beginning of the school year, District Safety Team members conducted a school safety and security site review. Bill Kinziger, RHS Assistant Principal, and Building and Grounds staff members, Brian Pepler and Brian Appleman accompanied SRO Lindsey Michels and Police Chief Dave Lukoski on a tour of the schools in the district. The focus was to improve safety and security at the various sites within the district. Chief Lukoski noted, “The school district has done a good job over the last four years of implementing many of the suggested safety and security suggestions that were recommended in the Spring of 2013,” when a similar tour was conducted. Safety and security site reviews occur on a regular basis in addition to this more extensive review.

The district has already begun to implement the suggestions from the fall tour which include items such as: installing a looping emergency intruder system at the elementary buildings; purchasing a district wide radio communications system; adding window treatments for the classrooms that have large glass windows that look out to interior hallways and also windows that face the outside of the building; locating fire extinguishers in each classroom and training staff on the use of the extinguishers; and continuing to provide intruder training for staff and students.

Since the Spring 2013 review, significant enhancements to safety have occurred including the creation of secure door entrance sequences at Barlow/Journey, Murray/Quest, RMS/Catalyst, and RHS/Lumen school sites. Buzzers with cameras were installed at each school’s front entrance. Schools have spent considerable time engaged in practice drills and reviewing safety procedures. Select staff in all schools completed the Level I National Incident Management System (NIMS) training. This past fall,

the district conducted a table-top exercise with Fond du Lac Emergency Government and local authorities. The Ripon Area School District Safety Team, which meets monthly, organized the event as part of ongoing efforts in emergency preparedness. The 33 attendees focused on familiarizing participants with roles, procedures, or responsibilities.

“The safety of students and staff is our number one priority. Through these ongoing efforts we are continually assessing our properties to assure security measures are in place. We have processes in place outlined in the RASD Violent Risk Assessment Procedure document which also outlines the proactive work school administrators and staff engage in to create a safe school climate,” stated Superintendent, Dr. Mary Whitrock. “Most importantly, staff and students practice their responses for emergency and risk situations. It is our hope to never have to put our practices in place, but we will continue to review our safety measures and our response protocols to be as prepared as possible.”

Please contact Superintendent, Dr. Mary Whitrock, at [whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us](mailto:whitrockm@ripon.k12.wi.us) with any questions.

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