

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY  
3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

**School Safety and Security Committee Meeting**

January 29, 2020

MINUTES

**Members/Designees:**

Mr. Charles Ramsey, Chairman  
Mr. Michael Pennington, PCCD Executive Director  
Mr. Derin Myers, Designee for Chairman Ramsey  
Ms. Janice Bart, Member  
Senator James Brewster, Member  
Ms. Nikki Bricker, Member  
Mr. David Hein, Member (via Skype)  
Dr. Gerald Huesken, Designee for Secretary Rivera  
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member  
Mr. Mike Kelly, Member  
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member  
Director David "Randy" Padfield, Member  
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member (via Skype)  
Lt. Col. Scott Price, Designee for Col. Evanchick  
Mr. Joseph Regan, Member  
Mr. Jonathan Ross, Member (via Skype)  
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member

**Staff:**

Pamela Bennett  
Cory Brady  
Lindsay Busko  
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks  
Chris Epoca  
Rich Finley  
Charles Gartside  
James Haas  
Kirsten Kenyon  
Rebecca Kiehl  
Samantha Koch  
Geoffrey Kolchin  
Carol Kuntz  
Crystal Lauver  
Fred Leer  
John Polheber  
Maddie Roman-Scott  
Debra Sandifer  
Shaun White  
Lenore Wyant

**Executive Session**

**Guest Designees:**

Jonathan Berger, PA School Boards Association (Hein)  
Hannah Barrick, PA Association of School Business Officials (Hurley)  
Sean Brandon, House Appropriations Committee (Bullock)  
Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association (Koretz)  
Gwenn Dando, Legislative Staff (Langerholc)  
Mike Deery, Legislative Staff (Brewster)  
Ryan Dostillio, House Appropriations Committee (Bullock)  
Christine Seitz, Legislative Staff (Ortitay)  
Vicki Wilken, Legislative Staff (Langerholc)

**Additional Guests:**

Vince Kovach, PA Department of Education (PDE)  
Jenna McCarthy, Malady & Wooten  
Miguel Ruiz, GPO

## **I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes**

- Call to Order
  - Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and welcomed those present and participating by Skype/phone
  - A quorum of members was established
- Review and adoption of the minutes from the December 17, 2019 meeting

### **Motion to approve the minutes**

- Senator Brewster made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hurley
- There was no discussion or public comment
- The minutes were approved by unanimous vote

## **II. Chairman's Update**

- Updated Website: Threat Assessment, NASRO, 3rd Party Vendor
  - At their December 2019 meeting the Commission approved:
    - The NASRO Basic SRO Training equivalency standards
    - Third Party School Security Guard Vendor criteria and application process
    - The Threat Assessment materials
  - Information on all 3 was posted on the PCCD website in December
  - NASRO Basic SRO Training equivalency
    - Two vendors are near completion in their work on an equivalent program
    - A third vendor, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, has started developing a program and will be submitting their curriculum in the near future
  - Third Party School Security Guard Vendor
    - Have had four applications in the past month
    - Two have been approved thus far and will be posted on the PCCD website
- BJA Funding Announcement
  - PCCD received a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to develop threat assessment training and informational materials, and to provide technical assistance to schools
  - The funding announcement was released January 23 and will close on February 21
  - A number of organizations have expressed interest in applying for this grant
- York Suburban School District
  - Reviewed motion adopted at the November 20, 2019 meeting regarding their competitive grant award
  - PCCD staff conveyed this decision to the District's Board
  - The York Suburban School District Board opted not to move forward with their originally approved project and returned the funding, totaling \$334,028
- A member shared her experience with NASRO so that the Committee is aware of the challenges with them
  - Despite conversations with NASRO training staff and submitting a second application to host a training in (western) PA, they were able to add one class, to be held in East Stroudsburg
  - NASRO indicated that they would work to meet PA's needs before February 28, 2020, after that, they would need to return to a more normal schedule. They will need to regroup and look at what they can do in Pennsylvania.

## **III. School Safety and Security Grants**

### **Motion to enter Executive Session in order to review the Meritorious and Competitive School Safety and Security grants and the Community Violence Prevention/Reduction grants**

- A motion to enter Executive Session was made by Janice Bart and seconded by Mr. Regan
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously
- All those present or on the phone/Skype, other than Committee Members, Designees, designated PCCD staff and approved Committee Members' support staff, were asked to leave

**Motion to conclude Executive Session and return to regular session**

- A motion to exit Executive Session and return to regular session was made by Ms. Bart and seconded by Mr. Regan
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously
- Chairman Ramsey gave an overview of the Executive Session discussion
  - The Committee reviewed the Meritorious, Competitive and Community Violence Grants that were submitted and eligible to receive funding, including:
    - 496 Meritorious Grants
    - 474 Competitive Grants
    - 59 Community Violence Grants
  - The total amounts requested and available were:
    - Community Violence Grants: \$14,299,539 requested with \$7.5 million available
    - Competitive Grants: \$116,067,437 requested with \$33.8 million available
  - PCCD staff will engage applicants to resolve potential fiscal and/or programmatic issues to formulate a recommendation to be considered by the Committee at the February 26, 2020 meeting

**IV. Member Updates/Comments**

- Mr. Myers provided follow-up information to the question raised at the December 2019 meeting regarding whether or not armed probation officers assigned to schools are required to comply with the NASRO or equivalent training requirement, determined that the school entity's local solicitor should weigh in on that, particularly if they are providing security services or are being asked to do the work
- Member noted that [Act 70](#) of 2019 [*establishing the Public Higher Education Funding Commission; providing for construction and renovation of buildings by school entities; and establishing a grant program for maintenance projects*] did not include funding
  - There's some funding for maintenance, but not for construction
  - Waiting for the Governor to present his budget and see if any funding

**V. Public Comment – None**

**VI. Adjournment**

- Reviewed upcoming 2020 meeting dates:
  - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 1-3 PM
  - Will have as close to a final budget number as can get to between the meetings
- Thanked everyone for their time and contribution to today's meeting

**Motion to adjourn the meeting**

- The motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hurley and seconded by Mr. Padfield
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 3:05 PM