

Report of the School Safety Committee

By Rita Bennett, Lincoln Education Association, Chair

The School Safety Committee was formed after passage of new business at the 2018 Delegate Assembly. The New Business Item said "The NSEA shall form an Ad-Hoc School Safety Committee that will:

- "Assess compliance with existing legislative and regulatory provisions regarding implementation and administration of school safety plans and procedures;
- "Investigate a model school safety plan incorporating best practices involving prevention, awareness, communication and stakeholder involvement;
- "Assess and identify legislative and/or regulatory measures necessary to further improve school safety."

The committee reviewed Nebraska Statute 79-2, 143 which details the appointment of the state school security director and reviewed the responsibilities of the state director. Through a meeting with the Nebraska's School Security Director, Jolene Palmer, and a review of information found at <https://www.education.ne.gov/safety/>, the committee was informed about the current status of the director's work to collect safety and security plans from each school building in Nebraska, as well as the next steps involved with safety assessor's reviews of those plans and next steps involved in reviewing and providing support to school buildings and districts to ensure their plans meet the Nebraska standards for school safety.

The committee also reviewed the Nebraska School Safety and Security Standards (which were adopted by the Nebraska Board of Education in 2016). The Nebraska standards were developed around four classifications: prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The standards can be reviewed at the link provided on this NDE website: <https://www.education.ne.gov/safety/>.

The school safety "model" being adopted for use across Nebraska is the Standard Response Protocol, which was developed by the "I Love You Guys" Foundation. There are a number of districts in Nebraska already using the SRP model. Information about the model can be found at <https://iloveguys.org/>.

The committee discussed areas of need in Nebraska for additional legislation to support overall school safety and security, which includes but is not limited to providing mental and behavioral health supports for

students and families, funding for a future statewide reporting line, as well as having reviewed legislation already introduced that is related to school safety and security. The committee is also exploring ways in which NSEA can support the work of the Nebraska security director as well as to inform members about the work that is being done across the state.

Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committee reviewed NSEA Resolutions related to school safety and security and has shared possible revisions to some resolutions and new resolution language to the NSEA Resolutions Committee.

The committee prepared a New Business Item for submission to the 2019 Delegate Assembly to continue the work of the Safety Committee. The work of the Ad-Hoc School Safety Committee needs to continue so that it can pursue specific steps to involve NSEA members in the work being done statewide, as well as to develop and/or promote specific legislative and regulatory policies that will further support the complex programming needed to foster safe learning environments in our public schools. Committee members look forward to an opportunity to continue this important work.