

## **March 8 MTI-MMSD Safety Committee Meeting Summary**

The **MTI-MMSD Safety Committee met on March 8** to discuss many of these concerns. Here a few updates based on that discussion:

### **Review of MMSD Code Red Emergency Protocols**

Since the Florida school shooting, many staff have raised concerns whether the MMSDs current emergency protocols are still the best protocols in such situations. The MMSDs current Code Red protocols are based on the recommendations that came from the **Sandy Hook Advisory Commission**, a blue-ribbon panel formed following that tragic event to review laws, practices and policies and advance recommendations intended to reduce the probability of similar tragedies. In the event of an imminent threat, the Districts Code Red Lockdown protocol directs staff and students out of hallways, classrooms and common areas into classrooms behind locked classroom doors.

While the MMSD and numerous other school districts have adopted similar Code Red Lockdown procedures, other protocols have been advanced by the Madison Police Department (MPD) and others. In fact, the MPD offers **CRASE** training to areas businesses, houses of worship, or other venues. CRASE stands for **Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events** and is designed around the simple acronym **"ADD"**, which stands for **AVOID, DENY** and **DEFEND** (the MMSDs current Code Red protocol largely involves the DENY element, creating barriers between students and the threat, turning lights off, remaining out of sight and quiet).

While the MMSD continues to believe that the general Code Red protocol is best practice for school settings, next month they will **pilot test** a CRASE training at an MMSD high school to determine which components of that approach should be integrated or adapted to the current protocol. The MTI-MMSD Safety Committee supports this trail approach and will reconvene in April following that pilot to discuss what was learned and what modifications, if any, are recommended for MMSD protocols. All MTI members will be advised of the outcome of those discussions. In the meantime, MTI staff will schedule Madison Police Department CRASE training for the MTI Safety Committee members to inform our work going forward.

**Classroom doors which lock from the inside.** Since 2016, MTI has advocated for the MMSD to adopt the recommendations advanced by the **Final Report of the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission**, a blue-ribbon report with recommendations for school districts and law enforcement in hopes of avoiding similar tragedies. The number one recommendation for schools was to ensure that **"all classrooms in K-12 schools should be equipped with locked doors that can be locked from the inside by the classroom teacher or substitute"**.

**The MMSD has committed to implementing this critical recommendation by the start of the 2018-19 school year.** On Tuesday, February 20, Superintendent Cheatham e-mailed all staff and shared the Districts intent to have all classroom doors modified so they can be locked from the inside by the start of next school year. At the MTI-MMSD Safety Committee we discussed the importance of that investment (it was the number one recommendation of the Sandy Hook Commission) as well as the need to ensure that all school facilities recommendations advanced by the Sandy Hook Commission be incorporated into MMSD facilities planning. MTI leadership will make sure members of the Board of Education are aware of these recommendations as well for their continued advocacy.

### **Behavior Education Plan Modifications**

While the majority of the March 8 Safety Committee meeting was focused on Code Red protocols and school safety facility improvements, we also discussed needed modification to the Behavior Education Plan necessary for safe school climates. District Administration will be advancing some immediate changes this spring and will also be reviewing more comprehensive adjustments once the school climate survey data has been analyzed. The **MTI-MMSD School Safety Committee will reconvene in May** to discuss the climate survey results and what that suggests to BEP modifications. All MTI members will be advised of the outcome of those discussions.

School safety has been of significant concerns, particularly since the recent tragedy in Florida. We are pleased to see the Board of Education and District Administration have taken some immediate steps to address these concerns. MTI leadership will continue to work with the BOE, MMSD Administration and building-based leaders (MTI Faculty Reps and school principals) to make sure that our schools are doing everything they can to ensure the safety of all students and staff.