

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENT MEETING

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS HIGH SCHOOL  
5901 NW PINE ISLAND ROAD  
PARKLAND, FL 33076

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019  
6:00 P.M. - 8:35 P.M.

COURT REPORTER:  
TIMOTHY R. BASS  
Bass Reporting Service, Inc.  
633 Southeast Third Avenue, Suite 200  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
954-463-3326

United Reporting, Inc.  
(954) 525-2221

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

ROBERT W. RUNCIE, Superintendent of Schools

DR. VALERIE WANZA, Chief School Performance &  
Accountability Officer

DR. MARYANN MAY, Chief Facilities Officer

MICHAELLE VALBRUN-POPE, Chief Student Support &  
Recovery Initiatives

LORI ALHADEFF, School Board Member - District 4

MODERATOR: ERIC M. CHISEM

1 THEREUPON,

2 (The following Parent Meeting was called to  
3 order by Mr. Chisem.)

4 MR. CHISEM: Good evening. Welcome parents.  
5 Thank you for joining us. I'm Eric Chisem,  
6 Director of Talent Acquisition & Operations, and  
7 I will be serving as your moderator this evening.

8 We will be starting momentarily. Meanwhile,  
9 here is some general housekeeping issues. The  
10 restrooms are located outside the auditorium on  
11 either side of the lobby. We have translation  
12 services available this evening in Spanish for  
13 those of you who would like to take advantage of  
14 this service.

15 Tonight we want to listen to you. We  
16 purposely planned this meeting to be small enough  
17 to give everyone a chance to speak. We're also  
18 not recording this meeting in order to provide an  
19 environment for each of you to be able to talk  
20 without distractions. We will be taking notes so  
21 that the spirit of your questions and our answers  
22 will be captured. We will post them on our  
23 website. Speaker's names will be listed on the  
24 wall to my left. The initial group of speakers  
25 will be asked to sit in the area in the row where

1 the microphone is placed. That's to your right.  
2 As each speaker is heard the next name will be  
3 posted. When you see your name please make your  
4 way down to the speaker area. We have two --  
5 and, ladies, if you can please stand and wave?  
6 Thank you for that. The microphone in the aisle  
7 has been reserved to speakers, so please utilize  
8 it so that your comments may be heard. Comments  
9 from the floor will not be recognized. Although,  
10 you see your name on the wall, when we put the  
11 questions and answers on the website your name  
12 will not be included. Speakers will be allotted  
13 two minutes each and cannot yield their time to  
14 another. And we are planning to wrap up at 8  
15 p.m. We will try to accommodate as many speakers  
16 as possible within the time, and to do so we will  
17 utilize a timing device with green, yellow and  
18 red indicators to fairly allocate time to all  
19 speakers. Please wrap up your questions or  
20 comments when the indicator starts off at yellow  
21 and ultimately will end with red.

22 The speakers list was developed from the  
23 speaker registration outside and is based on the  
24 order of signup. If you do not have an  
25 opportunity to be heard this evening you may

1 e-mail your questions or comments to  
2 safety@browardschools.com. That's S-A-F-E-T-Y  
3 @browardschools.com.

4 Q&A from tonight's meeting will be posted to  
5 the district's website at browardschools.com.  
6 Your name, again, will not be included.

7 As I mentioned tonight's meeting will not be  
8 recorded, so we ask you to be respectful of  
9 everyone's privacy and request that you do not  
10 record or photograph this evening's proceedings.

11 However, due to a recently filed lawsuit  
12 there is a court reporter present taking down  
13 questions and answers. Parents' names will not  
14 be recorded.

15 Please silence your cell phones and/or any  
16 other electronic devices. In addition, we will  
17 be following our normal meeting protocols that  
18 honors the district's eight character traits,  
19 cooperation, responsibility, citizenship,  
20 kindness, respect, honesty, self control and  
21 tolerance. And I thank you for that in advance.

22 I invite you now to please stand and join me  
23 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

24 MR. CHISEM: Thank you. You may be seated.

25 At this time I would like to introduce the

1 panel and I will start to my far left, Board  
2 Member Ms. Alhadeff.

3 MS. ALHADEFF: Hello MSD family and elected  
4 officials. Thank you for coming today so you  
5 have an opportunity to have your questions and  
6 your concerns answered. I want you to know that  
7 we all deserve answers. We want changes as  
8 quickly as possible to make sure our children are  
9 safe when they go to school. As your School  
10 Board member I'm working nonstop to make that  
11 happen. If after today you would like to send me  
12 an e-mail my e-mail address is  
13 lorialhadeff@browardschools.com. Also, if you  
14 would please download the SaferWatch app, if you  
15 see something, say something, send something, and  
16 we will do something in collaboration with our  
17 law enforcement. You can report things  
18 anonymously and they don't have access to the  
19 information on your phone.

20 I know that we are healing together through  
21 this tragedy and we want answers of why and how.  
22 I do too. With patience and persistence we will  
23 figure this out and strive to make our schools  
24 safe for your children and that they receive a  
25 high quality education. Your voice is your power

1 and together we are stronger.

2 DR. WANZA: Good evening everyone. I'm  
3 Valerie Wanza, I'm the Chief School Performance &  
4 Accountability Officer.

5 MS. POPE: Good evening. I'm Mickey Pope,  
6 Chief of Student Support & Recovery.

7 DR. MAY: Hello, Dr. Mary Ann May, Chief  
8 Facilities Officer Task Assigned.

9 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Good evening. I'm  
10 Bob Runcie, Superintendent. Thank you for this  
11 opportunity this evening to hear from you. I  
12 know it's been an extremely difficult challenging  
13 time for this community. And you have a right  
14 for us to understand that. We're here for you.

15 The horrific tragedy and murders that  
16 occurred right behind this building have forever  
17 changed our community and it has had ripple  
18 effects throughout Broward County. As a father I  
19 can't, you know, imagine the grief and the pain  
20 that has impacted the 14 children's families who  
21 we've lost and our three beloved employees. It's  
22 something that will, I know, stay with me for the  
23 rest of my life, for the rest of my entire  
24 career.

25 It is my commitment to work each and every

1 day along with our staff to make our schools as  
2 safe as possible and work to address all of the  
3 mental and psychological needs of this community.

4 Immediately after the tragedy we focused on  
5 three things. First and foremost and most  
6 urgently was how could we work to help the  
7 community deal with the wellness, the trauma, the  
8 grief.

9 The second was to make sure that we  
10 immediately worked to improve safety and security  
11 measures across our schools, not just protocols,  
12 but actual physical security.

13 And then third, to ensure that we were  
14 cooperating with various investigations as they  
15 were going on, in particular the MSD Public  
16 Safety Commission, conducting some of our own  
17 reviews as well so we can get answers and figure  
18 out how we can make changes in this district,  
19 changes in policy, changes in practices, changes  
20 in guidelines that would ultimately hold people  
21 accountable.

22 The first piece, in terms of the recovery,  
23 the wellness center efforts that we put in place,  
24 we immediately opened five locations for the MSD  
25 community to receive mental health services and

1 support, including a resiliency center that was  
2 open seven days a week in partnership with the  
3 City of Parkland. We went throughout the  
4 country. This is -- the scale and magnitude of  
5 the impact is something that we couldn't handle  
6 as a district, and we still struggle with it, so  
7 we've continued to reach out nationally. We  
8 initially reached out to the National Center for  
9 School Crisis & Bereavement, who have been  
10 working with us since last year. We have been  
11 able to get resources from -- from the Center for  
12 Mind-Body Medicine through the Zuckerberg  
13 Foundation. We've worked with a lot of different  
14 organizations. We at one point were importing  
15 counselors, psychologists and therapists from  
16 other districts throughout the state. We  
17 consulted with individuals from other tragedies,  
18 including Columbine, Sandy Hook, as well as  
19 Pulse. For the first month or so I basically  
20 lived up here at Stoneman Douglas spending time  
21 here just figuring out what we could do initially  
22 to get ready for opening the school and how we  
23 would support our teachers, our students, this  
24 community, having meetings with all these groups  
25 on a regular basis. And our work to provide

1 support to the schools has been ongoing. We've  
2 added staff, an additional 25 mental health  
3 clinicians in the MSD zone, essentially pulling  
4 people from other schools and communities across  
5 the district and putting them here permanently.  
6 We've continued to even staff and provide other  
7 resources including therapy dogs. We've added  
8 additional guidance counselors to this situation  
9 here and we've worked diligently after hearing  
10 from teachers, that they needed their classroom  
11 spaces back, we worked aggressively to get 36  
12 portables completed and in place before the start  
13 of the school year.

14 There was a number of safety measures that we  
15 did across the county. And also here at MSD we  
16 did some additional pieces. The first piece, at  
17 MSD we worked over the summer to put in  
18 additional video surveillance cameras. And I'll  
19 just back up a little bit to say that in January  
20 2018 the School Board authorized the -- several  
21 million dollars for us to upgrade our camera  
22 systems and put them all on one new digital  
23 platform. We had about seven different systems  
24 out there. That work was completed in June of  
25 2018. In August, after some additional

1 assessment work that was done, we added funding  
2 for another 2,500 cameras in the district. We've  
3 also moved forward working in partnership with  
4 the sheriff's office to ensure that they have  
5 realtime access to our camera systems now. And  
6 we are working with other law enforcement  
7 agencies, like the City of Coral Springs, the  
8 City of Fort Lauderdale, to make that available  
9 as well. So we added over 100 additional cameras  
10 here at the school. We added additional fencing  
11 and gates to create the second perimeter on  
12 campus. We upgraded the classroom locks, locking  
13 mechanisms on the doors so that they lock  
14 automatically. We doubled the security staff at  
15 Stoneman Douglas to 18 members. We had a single  
16 point of entry here. We enhanced the single  
17 point of entry that exists here at Stoneman  
18 Douglas.

19 Across the district we've continued to work  
20 to expedite single point of entry projects in the  
21 county. Those are projects that consist of a  
22 system of gates and doors to funnel visitors into  
23 one entrance. We last -- in the fall of 2017 the  
24 School Board directed us to strip out all the  
25 single point of entry projects from the master

1 projects that we had in our SMART Bond program  
2 which went all the way out to 2021. They asked  
3 us to get them done earlier. We put a schedule  
4 in place to have the single point of entry  
5 projects completed a couple years early. We're  
6 on track to that. We're about 85 percent of the  
7 way there. By the end of February we will have  
8 all of our schools except for about 40 of them  
9 completed. By the middle of April I think we'll  
10 be down to about 20 or so schools. So our goal  
11 is to get that work done by the end of the school  
12 year at all schools.

13 We immediately had put in directives to our  
14 schools last year to put in enhanced security  
15 protocols at all of our schools ensuring that all  
16 gates were locked while school was in session.  
17 When they were open they needed to be supervised.  
18 That all classroom doors would be locked during  
19 session. Everyone is required to wear IDs and be  
20 identified at our schools. We -- we were very  
21 diligent in terms of working with schools to  
22 change practices and behaviors around the  
23 protocols that we put in place.

24 We've actually engaged a risk assessment firm  
25 which we hired. We originally came across the

1 firm through conversations with one of our  
2 parents, Max Schachter; had lots of conversations  
3 with him. I actually put him on the evaluation  
4 selection committee of the vendors we selected.

5 What we know is the, probably the best and  
6 most experienced firm in the nation, has done  
7 work all over the world as well, to do an  
8 independent security risk assessment of each and  
9 every school in Broward County. We started with  
10 all the schools in the Stoneman Douglas zone  
11 first. We completed those, the first phase of  
12 that work, over the summer. And we allocated  
13 over \$30 million in prioritized investments,  
14 again, to put additional cameras in our schools,  
15 to increase the number of radios on our campuses  
16 so we could enhance effective communication  
17 across our campuses. And then also upgrade our  
18 intercom systems. Actually, over the summer we  
19 upgraded the intercom system here at Stoneman  
20 Douglas, as well. And then, finally, we're  
21 putting in a function that doesn't exist in any  
22 district that we know of in Florida, maybe the  
23 country. We're the first one that's putting in  
24 what's called an Enterprise Risk Management  
25 Office where we'll have an expert, a security

1 expert, that will consolidate all of our security  
2 functions in the district, will also work to  
3 modify job descriptions and requirements for  
4 security positions, such as campus monitors and  
5 security specialists; ensure that there is  
6 consistent up-to-date training on best practices  
7 for all of them and monitor and ensure compliance  
8 with safety protocols and safety procedures  
9 across our district.

10 We've worked to also ensure that we've been  
11 cooperating and working with the MSD Commission  
12 to make sure that that work was being done in as  
13 timely a fashion as possible. Also that we would  
14 be able to get the results from that report and  
15 then move forward with our own reviews and  
16 investigation.

17 As the MSD Commission, before it was released  
18 January 2nd, we actually started working prior to  
19 that over the winter break to look at every  
20 single recommendation that they had. And I can  
21 tell you that the majority of recommendations  
22 that are in that report we've either completed  
23 the items or we have them in process.

24 So we really worked to put all of those  
25 pieces in place. The work is continuous. It's

1 never going to stop. For me -- I mean for us,  
2 it's something that, you know, has really  
3 changed, you know, the perspective of what we do.  
4 We certainly have a dual responsibility. It's  
5 very clear, first and foremost, to make sure our  
6 schools are absolutely as safe as possible, but  
7 never lose sight of the fact that we can have the  
8 most secure schools in the world, we need to  
9 continue to provide the highest quality education  
10 we can in this country and continue to innovate,  
11 continue to provide programs and opportunities  
12 that are going to engage our kids and prepare  
13 them for a hyper-connected competitive world  
14 driven by technology, telecommunications.

15 We believe that we've got to be able to do  
16 both and we will do both.

17 With that said, again, thank you for being  
18 here and I look forward to hearing from you.  
19 What we can do to help address concerns that you  
20 have, that your children have, you know, we  
21 wanted to hear that and certainly, obviously,  
22 anything else that's on your mind.

23 So, again, thank you.

24 MR. CHISEM: Thank you to the entire panel  
25 and thank you Superintendent Runcie.

1           At this time I want to make sure that we  
2 recognize the elected officials joining us this  
3 evening. I do believe Commissioner Mayersohn is  
4 in the house. Would you stand up if you're here?  
5 He's all the way in the back. He's waving.

6           Earlier I shared with you the names will be  
7 posted up here. At this time if we could have  
8 the first five to join us over here, if you'll  
9 have a seat at the microphone?

10          And if your name is first, feel free to go  
11 ahead and stand in front of the microphone at  
12 this time.

13          SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: And Mr. Chisem, I  
14 just want to remind everyone that although we're  
15 having these four smaller meetings primarily for  
16 parents we're scheduling, as we indicated on your  
17 initial communication, we're scheduling a larger  
18 Town Hall meeting to be somewhere near here in  
19 the north area. We're going to work with Ms.  
20 Alhadeff to secure a date and a location and  
21 we'll be able to provide that information as  
22 early as next week. But we're hoping to have  
23 that sometime this month, as well, as we work to  
24 coordinate schedules. So, again, that's a larger  
25 -- that's a larger Town Hall meeting, obviously,

1 open to everyone.

2 MR. CHISEM: Thank you for that.

3 Go ahead.

4 SPEAKER: Mr. Runcie, I have been an employee  
5 of this county and a resident of Parkland for  
6 over 20 years and my daughter survived the  
7 shooting on the third floor of the building.  
8 This massacre has changed me, my family and this  
9 entire community forever.

10 We all still struggle on a daily basis with  
11 mixed emotions of fear, anger and sadness,  
12 causing us a great deal of anxiety in a place  
13 that we call home.

14 I have spent my entire career helping  
15 children and I have slowly watched this county  
16 push aside the most important asset in a child's  
17 education, their social and emotional well-being.

18 Under your leadership I have watched this  
19 county slowly deteriorate allowing children and  
20 parents insisting that our schools allow  
21 behaviors in our classroom that no other  
22 profession would ever tolerate. We have and  
23 continue to place the responsibility of these  
24 children on the shoulders of our teachers while  
25 providing them little to no assistance.

1           We have now given principals the authority to  
2 assess threat levels of students when they are  
3 not qualified to make such a determination, which  
4 is putting the rest of our population at risk.

5           We are promoting children and sometimes  
6 violent children without any just cause just so  
7 our retention rates look good on paper.

8           We are now trying to limit the fatalities of  
9 mass school shootings by creating hard corners  
10 and locking doors, while we as a county allow  
11 these children through the front gates without ID  
12 badges.

13           Isn't it clear that the issues are there are  
14 children enrolled in our schools with anger  
15 issues and no consequences for their behavior?

16           The reality is that we as a county are  
17 continuing to help create these monsters by not  
18 providing them the tools and professionals to  
19 help them deal with their emotional struggles.

20           As educators our job should be to identify  
21 the children who need help and put these children  
22 in contact with the people that can assist them.

23           Don't our children deserve at least that  
24 much? Shouldn't an educator be proactive and not  
25 reactive in all situations, especially when it

1 comes to the wellbeing of our students and their  
2 safety?

3 Now that Parkland is the result of what can  
4 happen when a child's behaviors are ignored, why  
5 hasn't this district put anything in place to  
6 provide support and professional help for these  
7 children and teachers who still cry out for  
8 assistance with children as young as kindergarten  
9 prior to them reaching for an AR-15?

10 I'm sorry to say that we have not become part  
11 of the solution but, in fact, we are now part of  
12 the problem.

13 It is about time that we fix this and we  
14 should begin with your resignation.

15 All of these items from the top -- to me it  
16 is pathetic that you took a year to finally  
17 confront this community.

18 To date you have taken no responsibility for  
19 even contributing to this. Even I have taken my  
20 responsibility as a teacher who sat by and  
21 followed your policies watching child after child  
22 being promoted with no assistance for their  
23 well-being.

24 Children as young as five threaten to shoot  
25 up our school cafeteria or assault a teacher or a

1 student on a daily basis.

2 Can I finish?

3 MR. CHISEM: That's fine.

4 SPEAKER: Children as young as five threaten  
5 to shoot up the school cafeteria or assault the  
6 teacher and the students on a daily basis. This  
7 child was in attendance for 80 school days and  
8 then was promoted into the next grade level.  
9 Why? Because I was informed kindergarten doesn't  
10 really count.

11 Events such as these, which happens more than  
12 you'd like to admit have finally caused me after  
13 20 years to take a break and leave this town as I  
14 cannot continue to sit back and be a part of the  
15 molding of the next school shooter.

16 As \*\*\*\*\* said last night, your job as a  
17 leader should be to bring this community  
18 together, to heal, feel safe, learn what the  
19 survivors and parents and teachers are still  
20 struggling with on a daily basis and make change  
21 to truly solve this epidemic.

22 Although, the reality is you're continually  
23 trying to separate us with items as little as  
24 these meetings, meetings where the community  
25 needed each other. I believe the only thing left

1 that you can do now for Parkland, the people  
2 affected by this tragedy, the entire Broward  
3 County School System is to resign and let the  
4 healing and the corrections finally begin.

5 MR. CHISEM: I just want to remind everyone  
6 that the objective of this evening will be to  
7 allow everyone to speak that has signed up, so we  
8 just want to be very mindful of time restraints.

9 So I may interject when you're speaking.  
10 It's not to be disrespectful or anything. I just  
11 want everybody that signed up to have an  
12 opportunity to speak.

13 Is that okay with you all?

14 Thank you very much.

15 SPEAKER: Mr. Runcie, I hope you resign. I  
16 hope you're not here --

17 MR. CHISEM: State your name. I'm sorry.

18 SPEAKER: \*\*\*\*\*. Last week I was here, not  
19 once, but twice. Twice, I walked through the  
20 gate on the senior lot. Twice, I was not asked  
21 why I entered this campus. Upon investigating  
22 why, that's policy; that's procedure. You don't  
23 need -- nobody stopped, nobody questioned, nobody  
24 asked.

25 One evening I was leaving, a gentleman was

1 walking in with a bag and comforter over his  
2 shoulder. What could be in the comforter? What  
3 could be in the bag? That's policy. That's  
4 procedure. That guy is just standing at that  
5 gate to see what's going on. It's too late.  
6 It's too late when that guy gets to the field  
7 with whatever he has under that blanket and  
8 whatever is in that bag.

9 I walked past students in an auditorium that  
10 was much fuller than this both evenings. It was  
11 11-3 parents meeting in this room and DECA  
12 students' parents meeting in this room. And you  
13 didn't care about safety. There were not half a  
14 dozen police officers sitting in the front.  
15 Nobody cared who we were.

16 Mr. Runcie, why are we not secure?

17 SPEAKER: \*\*\*\*\*. Mr. Runcie, the only thing  
18 more appalling to me than, God forbid, my  
19 daughter being in a classroom that's being shot  
20 up is the lack of follow-through and  
21 foot-dragging I'm seeing from the School Board  
22 and from the follow-through at the school level.

23 On four different occasions I've been to the  
24 school with a single point of entry and the band  
25 room door has been open with a chair. The red

1 gate next to the 1300 building was propped open  
2 with a chair. And the chain link fence by the  
3 baseball field was wide open; no security  
4 whatsoever.

5 After the fourth time it had happened I e-  
6 mailed Mr. Thompson and he said that he would  
7 talk to the people that were responsible and that  
8 would never happen again. The very next Saturday  
9 the gates were open and the doors were propped.

10 Why is it my responsibility to communicate to  
11 the people at a local level of what your job is  
12 to follow through?

13 Mr. Thompson, if this happened on my watch  
14 I'd be at this school from six in the morning  
15 until midnight if that's what it took to make  
16 sure that the gates are closed.

17 Thank you.

18 SPEAKER: \*\*\*\*\*. Mr. Runcie, when I sat here  
19 and heard your presentation you started with what  
20 I actually wanted to talk about, some of the  
21 mental health issues. And I want you to know  
22 that this community is in crisis.

23 The fact that it took 11 months for there to  
24 be a robocall to the families of the students in  
25 the 1200 building is appalling.

1           There were teams that lost coaches. What was  
2 the reach-out to those kids? It was virtually  
3 nonexistent. You had two coaches die and you  
4 have kids who were touched by those people.  
5 Chris Hixon touched every life of every athlete  
6 at this school. Was anything done? Was there  
7 any active intervention to bring those kids in?

8           You know, you said to me, things are  
9 available, and, yes, the resiliency center is  
10 there and it's open, but it is woefully  
11 understaffed. People go in, they have to wait  
12 days or weeks for an appointment.

13           So it's all happy talk, that you did this,  
14 you did that. The same problems that led to the  
15 situation that allowed that killer onto this  
16 campus to murder all those people and affect so  
17 many lives has not changed.

18           And you, sir, are responsible.

19           MR. CHISEM: I'm going to provide an  
20 opportunity just to provide some conversation  
21 around some of the things that have been said and  
22 I think more from what I'm hearing, and Mr.  
23 Runcie opened up and shared a lot of information  
24 on what the district has done, so at this time I  
25 would just give the panel an opportunity to share

1 any feedback on any of the areas.

2 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes. You know, I  
3 identified a number of things we've done here at  
4 the school and indicated we're going to be doing  
5 more. And I know it's never going to be enough,  
6 but we are going to continue to keep working and  
7 we're going to keep trying to put more and more  
8 security measures, enhancements in place.

9 You know, I'll tell you, when I came here in  
10 2011 there were a lot of issues that the district  
11 was facing. First day I showed up here we had a  
12 massive class size issue. The district was  
13 facing a fine of about \$66 million because we had  
14 70 percent of the out of compliance classrooms in  
15 the State of Florida. We laid off 1,400  
16 teachers, employees were on furlough, we were  
17 losing about 2,000 kids a year, lots of issues in  
18 this district. And I held about 45 Town Hall  
19 Meetings around Broward County.

20 No one has ever said that there was a big  
21 security issue in this district, in this county,  
22 at all anywhere. I've never heard it at a Board  
23 Meeting. I've never seen it on an evaluation  
24 from a Board member. No one highlighted that.

25 We now are in a different place because of

1 the tragedy that has occurred on February 14th.  
2 And it's my responsibility to work with our  
3 organization, work with our community, to put in  
4 more security measures and fix everything we can  
5 as quickly as we can. We can't do everything  
6 that everybody wants. And I get that. But we're  
7 going to try as much as we possibly can to  
8 address not only the physical security needs but  
9 also the mental health pieces.

10 We -- we've added about 50 additional  
11 counselors, support staff, social workers. We've  
12 had the referendum that we've gone out to the  
13 public to give us additional funding so that we  
14 can boost resources to be able to provide the  
15 interventions and supports that we need.

16 You know, interestingly enough, one of the  
17 speakers that came up earlier talked about, you  
18 know, her experience as an educator in Broward  
19 County. It reminded me also verbatim of the  
20 conversations I've been having with the state  
21 legislature about the need for funding for mental  
22 health services. In fact, in January of 2018 I  
23 convened a summit at the state level with 67  
24 school districts representing, representatives  
25 from the state to -- to focus on challenges that

1 we were having with social, emotional and mental  
2 health across our school systems and the need for  
3 additional support. So we've recognized the  
4 issues for quite some time, but it's going to  
5 take outside community to continue to advocate  
6 for the resources while we continue to do the  
7 very best with what we can.

8 Ms. Pope, you can address some of the  
9 advances that we've provided.

10 MS. POPE: Thank you. Good evening again.

11 I want to address a couple of points made  
12 earlier, particularly by our teacher who started  
13 out with how we are -- our schools, we're lacking  
14 the resources or supports that are needed to take  
15 care of students that are -- with behavior issues  
16 who are at risk.

17 To begin with, I think that as a public  
18 school system we are responsible for serving all  
19 of the children that walk through our doors. The  
20 schools in Parkland serve Parkland students,  
21 Parkland children, Parkland families. So  
22 children are not created in a vacuum within the  
23 school building, and while we have kids who are  
24 at risk across all of our communities, we are  
25 lawfully -- we must serve them. And as a teacher

1 you probably know that you have to serve them in  
2 the least restrictive environment. We have to  
3 continually assess placement of students. And if  
4 they have a disability or if they have special  
5 needs, we have to address those needs.

6 So our responsibility is to every single  
7 child of this community.

8 And in terms of the resources that are  
9 available to support those students, those are  
10 also guided by statute. They are guided by how  
11 we're funded. Mr. Runcie, spoke to that a bit.  
12 And, yes, we do believe that we are underfunded  
13 for mental health resources, have been and  
14 continue to be. And even with the additional  
15 resources that we received in response to the  
16 Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act, we  
17 continue to still have great needs.

18 So we are using every resource that's  
19 available to us to address the needs of all of  
20 the children that walk into our doors every day.

21 You also mentioned the threat assessment and  
22 how we are now requiring our administrators who  
23 are not really well-equipped to do threat  
24 assessments, now we're requiring them to do them.  
25 That is not something that the district is

1 requiring. It is now state law that a threat  
2 assessment committee -- it has been a law, but it  
3 is now enhanced in response to Marjorie Stoneman  
4 Douglas, the tragedy, that these threat  
5 assessment committees must be present, must come  
6 together whenever there is a student that we feel  
7 needs to be addressed, that we feel has an issue  
8 that something needs to be done. And it is  
9 required that that threat assessment team has law  
10 enforcement as a member along with mental health  
11 professionals that are in the building. So it is  
12 not solely the responsibility of the school  
13 administrator to do a threat assessment.

14 The other piece you had mentioned was that,  
15 you know, we are creating monsters, and I'd like  
16 to believe and -- again, personally, I'd like to  
17 believe that children -- we all have a  
18 responsibility to rear our children, all of us,  
19 those of us who work in our school buildings,  
20 those of us in the community, and those of us who  
21 raise them in the homes. And so I don't know,  
22 you know, that it's necessarily within the school  
23 building that we are creating monsters. I think  
24 that we have a lot of children at risk. We have  
25 a lot of children who need help. And we are -- I

1 think that within the school system we are doing  
2 all we can, using all the resources we have, and  
3 we continue to assess what happened here as --  
4 daily, as a learning experience and as a way for  
5 us to address our processes, our procedures, our  
6 training.

7 So we're not doing nothing. It is something  
8 that has impacted all of our work.

9 MR. CHISEM: Mrs. Alhadeff, did you want to  
10 speak?

11 MS. ALHADEFF: Yes, on \*\*\*\*\*'s point, he said  
12 that it took 11 months for a robocall to the  
13 families in the 1200 building. Mr. Runcie, is  
14 that true?

15 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: My understanding was  
16 there was outreach to them. And I know I've  
17 spoken to the staff about that so --

18 MS. POPE: I'll be happy to respond to that  
19 as well.

20 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes, can you respond  
21 to that?

22 MS. POPE: Outreach has occurred for the  
23 students and staff of the 1200 building since  
24 February 14th. This recent robocall was to let  
25 parents know that we were doing an additional

1 outreach in commemoration of the one year mark.  
2 We wanted to make sure that we touched bases with  
3 every student just to show some support to find  
4 out where they are and how they're doing and what  
5 additional support can be provided. And the  
6 robocall came as an idea to let parents know that  
7 this was happening around this time. But that  
8 has occurred since February 14th.

9 In fact, we received calls from parents very  
10 early on. You know, their children were coming  
11 home and they were saying that social workers and  
12 family therapists were coming into their  
13 classrooms, were reaching out to them, were  
14 pulling them out of class to do some assessments.  
15 And some parents at the time were saying that  
16 they didn't -- they wanted to know that  
17 information. And so that's why, as we went to go  
18 through that process again, that's why that  
19 robocall went out.

20 MS. ALHADEFF: Okay. Ms. Pope, I would like  
21 a followup on that date of when the parents were  
22 called and how. Was it e-mail; was it robocall?  
23 I would like a timeline from February 14th.

24 Also, Mr. Runcie, talked about, you know,  
25 when he came here in 2011. This is 2019. And we

1 had a shooting here at this school. The needs of  
2 this community have changed since then.

3 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I agree; yes.

4 No, I absolutely agree. That's what was my  
5 point. We're in a different world, a different  
6 time. We know a lot more. Everything we do is  
7 done around the lens of what has occurred here  
8 and what we need to do and what we need to change  
9 going forward. It's on top of my mind of  
10 everything we do each and every day.

11 The trauma, the PTSD, it's not going away.  
12 It doesn't take time off. And I'm not taking  
13 time off either. We're working every day on  
14 these issues. So that's the only point I was  
15 raising, that it's a very different climate now  
16 and we're forever changed by that. We're not  
17 practicing under the same mindset or operations  
18 or procedures that we had before. We're changing  
19 everything we can possibly change and fixing what  
20 we know we need to fix.

21 MS. ALHADEFF: But as the superintendent, Mr.  
22 Runcie, you need to be a leader and own all of  
23 the many failures that led up to 2/14.

24 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes, I mean, we  
25 will -- we'll own and acknowledge that we haven't

1 done things perfectly. There were mistakes that  
2 we know were probably made here. There are  
3 things that -- there are holes in procedures and  
4 operations given. The lens that we have now and  
5 things that we know to fix, yes, we own up to  
6 whatever the mistakes are there and we're going  
7 to fix whatever we need to fix and move forward.

8 MS. ALHADEFF: And do you think that a  
9 principal of a school should know about a threat  
10 assessment that occurred in their school?

11 MR. RUNCIE: I absolutely do. In fact, as  
12 you know, Ms. Alhadeff, as recommended to the  
13 Board and the changes to our threat assessment  
14 policy, that principals are now required to  
15 review and sign off on threat assessments. And,  
16 number two, we're going to ensure that  
17 principal's supervisors, our Office of School  
18 Performance & Accountability, headed by Dr.  
19 Wanza, that they do a second review to make sure  
20 that the threat assessments were completed  
21 properly and that they're followed up on and  
22 executed. And the third thing that we are doing  
23 is our audit department is doing an annual review  
24 that will include a review of threat assessments  
25 that are done at schools to ensure that they are

1 done properly and that they are following -- that  
2 they are executed and that the followup that  
3 needed to occur is occurring.

4 MR. CHISEM: Thank you. Is it possible that  
5 we can have Mr. \*\*\*\*\*, Mrs. \*\*\*\*\*, Mr. \*\*\*\*\* and  
6 Ms. \*\*\*\*\*, the four names I called, I just want  
7 to be able to move forward. We have an area for  
8 you here.

9 Thank you.

10 SPEAKER: My name is \*\*\*\*\*. The first two  
11 seconds, I would just like to tell Lori how proud  
12 we are of you and how amazingly brave it is for  
13 you to actually be sitting there.

14 MS. ALHADEFF: Thank you.

15 SPEAKER: So many of us in this room could  
16 have been in your seat and your daughter is  
17 smiling down on you today and every day.

18 On February 14th I had three children in this  
19 school. That could be a record. One of which  
20 was stuck under a table in the freshman  
21 building -- next to the freshman building. We  
22 were texting back and forth, but there was a  
23 20-minute delay, no texting at all. It was the  
24 longest 20 minutes of my life. Luckily, it was  
25 when the SWAT team had taken my son out of there.

1 My two girls had jumped over a fence.

2 After that the world was looking at us. The  
3 world's still looking at us and I would have  
4 thought that this would be the safest school on  
5 the planet. And as frequently as today I spoke  
6 to two of our new officers, and I asked him, how  
7 do you think things are going? And he said,  
8 nothing has changed. I said, would you even  
9 notice if someone's bringing a gun into our  
10 school? He said, absolutely not. We don't look  
11 in bags, we don't have metal detectors or wands.  
12 And I was just in shock that a year later on the  
13 grounds -- I don't know if you watched that  
14 video, but I've watched the end of the video with  
15 those little red dots and the voices screaming in  
16 the background, where is he? Where is he? And  
17 watching those dots run away from the murderer  
18 instead of towards him.

19 You know, it's infuriating that this  
20 literally probably was the most preventable crime  
21 in the history of this country. And I wonder  
22 still with the man telling me today nothing has  
23 changed, he has no idea -- you know what he said?  
24 I'm just here to prevent maybe the third or  
25 fourth murder when it happens.

1           Because the next monster is out there and we  
2           have not been prepared.

3           Thank you.

4           MR. CHISEM: Thank you sir.

5           SPEAKER: Good evening. I should be brief.  
6           My daughter, \*\*\*\*\*, goes to this school, she's a  
7           junior, and what I wanted to say, you keep  
8           mentioning about the mental health aspect of  
9           these -- some of these kids. What are you doing  
10          other than helping them to keep them away from  
11          coming into the property? I mean, all this  
12          mental health help that they get, they still keep  
13          coming back.

14          The kid was able to go get a weapon and come  
15          back after umpteen times of reports and reports  
16          and reports. But no record from BSO, no record  
17          from you, Mr. Runcie.

18          Where were you? Where were you?

19          This kid came back onto the property after  
20          over 30 complaints.

21          How am I supposed to feel safe next year for  
22          my daughter?

23          You're not prosecuting these kids. I don't  
24          care that they are 14, 15 years old. These kids  
25          are old enough to know what's right and wrong and

1 you're babying them. They need consequences, not  
2 to come back into the school. You need to get  
3 them the hell out.

4 Answer my question.

5 Are you going to keep these kids out or are  
6 you going to keep them babied? Which one is it?  
7 I want to know now or I'm willing to wait.

8 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Do you want to know  
9 the answer?

10 SPEAKER: Yes, I just asked you.

11 SUPERINTENDANT RUNCIE: All right. So any  
12 kid in this system that presents a threat, we  
13 have clear guidelines. And when a threat  
14 assessment is done --

15 SPEAKER: What kind of threat? What kind of  
16 threat? What level of threat?

17 A guy's got a gun and he's on the street,  
18 that's like the highest level threat.

19 SUPERINTENDANT RUNCIE: Sir, there's a lot of  
20 misinformation that's out there. In Broward  
21 County alone this year in terms of risk  
22 protection orders we've had over 300. Miami-Dade  
23 has had 10. We are -- we are taking kids out of  
24 school.

25 SPEAKER: With all due respect, I really

1 don't care. I don't care about your statistics.  
2 I don't care about your statistics. I really  
3 don't care.

4 Does anybody here care about statistics?

5 The guy threatened every kid on this campus  
6 and teachers. And you did nothing. You did  
7 nothing. You viewed it and you did nothing.

8 SUPERINTENDANT RUNCIE: We did what we were  
9 required to do.

10 SPEAKER: That lady right over there should  
11 not even be sitting in the same row that you're  
12 in. She shouldn't even be sitting there with  
13 you.

14 I'm done.

15 MR. CHISEM: Can we just provide information  
16 for everyone around the mental health piece and  
17 what we're doing, the disciplinary piece; if  
18 that's possible?

19 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes. So let me --  
20 let me just say, every -- all the incidents that  
21 we've referred to, we provide interventions and  
22 supports that are defined by state and federal  
23 law in terms of how we deal with children who  
24 have certain types of disabilities. Those  
25 interventions were done appropriately. I think

1 one of the things that we know from what's  
2 occurred, you can read the MSD Commission Report  
3 if you'd like to, the fact of the matter is, we  
4 need services that extend even beyond schools. I  
5 mean, this student was gone from this place for  
6 about a year. We need to make sure that services  
7 follow individuals even beyond when they're in  
8 the school system.

9 Again, we do interventions. We make  
10 determinations of whether students belong in a  
11 different environment. When they belong in a  
12 different environment we move them out of  
13 schools. That's part of the process that we  
14 have.

15 MS. POPE: I think a key piece of the  
16 conversation or the question that you started  
17 with is, you know, how do you remove students  
18 from our schools? If you were to Google or look  
19 up the Florida statute on zero tolerance, it's  
20 Florida Statute 1006.13, POLICY of zero tolerance  
21 for crime and victimization.

22 It provides the district all the guidance  
23 that we must comply with in terms of when a  
24 student presents a threat.

25 It requires each district school board to

1 enter into agreements with the county sheriff's  
2 office and local police department specifying  
3 guidelines for ensuring that acts that pose a  
4 serious threat to school safety, whether  
5 submitted by a student or an adult, are reported  
6 to a law enforcement agency. It goes on in the  
7 statute to say that that agreement also must  
8 include the role of resource officers in handling  
9 reported incidents and circumstances in which  
10 school officials may handle incidents without  
11 consulting or filing a report with a law  
12 enforcement agency. And then it specifies those  
13 acts. Okay?

14 The statute does not require the reporting  
15 petty acts of misconduct or misdemeanors to a law  
16 enforcement agency, including, but not limited  
17 to, disorderly conduct, simple assault or  
18 battery, affray, which is like a fight, theft of  
19 less than \$300, trespassing, vandalism of less  
20 than 1,000, and it specifies those things.

21 What has been added this year is that threat  
22 assessment piece that I spoke of earlier. And,  
23 so, again, a lot of our actions are guided by  
24 law, state law, when a student should be removed,  
25 can be removed.

1           We are a public school system and we even  
2           have to provide education to students while they  
3           are incarcerated, while they are in the juvenile  
4           justice system. We are responsible for educating  
5           all of this community's children, in different  
6           buildings, in whatever buildings that they're in.

7           So to say that, you know, we need to arrest  
8           kids no matter how old is not something that we  
9           can do. We do have law enforcement in our  
10          schools. We have all of our SROs and it is a  
11          function of their role to arrest students. We  
12          don't arrest. It's a function of their role.  
13          And if they determine that an arrest needs to  
14          happen they do that.

15          MR. CHISEM: Can I have the next speaker,  
16          please?

17          SPEAKER: Hi. My name is \*\*\*\*\*, my daughter  
18          is a junior here.

19          My question pertains to entering the campus  
20          here at Stoneman Douglas.

21          My daughter and several of her friends feel  
22          that entering campus in the morning is little to  
23          no safer today than it was a year ago. They also  
24          feel that if someone wanted to bring a weapon on  
25          campus it would be very easy to do so.

1 My question is, what is being done and what  
2 has been done to make this campus safer?

3 I hear you have cameras, you have therapy  
4 dogs, you have door locks, you have safe spaces.

5 Nothing I've heard or seen anyone do for this  
6 campus is preventative.

7 What and when are you going to do something  
8 to prevent the next incident from happening at  
9 this school?

10 MR. CHISEM: Do you want to hold off on that?

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Answer his question.

12 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yeah, so Ms. Alhadeff  
13 and I and the School Board have been having --  
14 we're having some conversations now about some  
15 additional solutions for - specifically for  
16 Stoneman Douglas to address these concerns that  
17 you are raising.

18 So I'm not going to necessarily commit to  
19 something, but I just want to let you know that  
20 we are working on additional -- additional  
21 security measures to address the concerns of  
22 contraband, weapons, et cetera, that may be able  
23 to -- that may be on campus and coming into the  
24 campus.

25 SPEAKER: My name is \*\*\*\*\*. I have the honor

1 of being a head coach here of the cross country  
2 and track teams and the honor to -- Coach Beigel  
3 was my coach that I reported to. My question is  
4 about security compensation, my disappointment in  
5 the lack of security here. Whenever I come to  
6 the school they have a single point of entry.  
7 However, the school is surrounded by two miles of  
8 fencing. It's very easy to climb over. So I  
9 don't have much respect for the security.

10 But I'm talking more about, regardless of  
11 security, it's not the be all and end all  
12 solution to the broader problem.

13 The real issue is mental health as evidenced  
14 by the murder of multiple lives lost and  
15 subsequent failure of school administrators to  
16 act in getting help, law enforcement to deliver  
17 the proper force in these scenarios and your  
18 School Board members to recognize the prevalence  
19 of mental health in children in a long-term  
20 approach.

21 We have seen minimal efforts by you  
22 addressing mental health issues. What I found  
23 are examples of negligence by the School Board.

24 The mental health issues of the murderer  
25 affected MSD like an earthquake. It led to

1 numerous people dead but it's also left thousands  
2 of us with emotional issues and problems that we  
3 deal with on a daily basis with our children.

4 What are you doing, Runcie, to prevent the  
5 next child from channeling the anger into hate  
6 and the hate into words?

7 Do you truly think that security alone can  
8 eradicate this issue?

9 I urge you to prioritize mental health of  
10 children over the issue of security. Band-Aids  
11 are to heal cuts. This is not a cut. This is a  
12 cancer.

13 I urge you to please look more into this  
14 issue.

15 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I don't view this as  
16 a Band-Aid. This is an emergency room situation.  
17 We are working to provide as many resources as we  
18 can to, one, identify all the students that need  
19 intervention, to those interventions that are  
20 occurring with those students, making the  
21 appropriate assessments, whether they need  
22 additional support, whether they need a change in  
23 school environment. We are putting oversight and  
24 supervision over those things as well and trying  
25 to support our schools as much as possible.

1 We've been doing extensive training for school  
2 staff administrators as well. So we're going to  
3 continue doing that work and add additional  
4 resources to the district, additional behavior  
5 specialists, clinicians, mental health support  
6 professionals. That's what we're doing and we're  
7 going to continue to do more and more of that.

8 There's just not one solution.

9 There's a multitude of things that we need to  
10 work on. Just like the physical security, there  
11 isn't one piece. We look at this as layers of  
12 security from the school, from the fencing, to  
13 door locks, to protocols. It's putting a series  
14 of measures in place. It isn't one thing that we  
15 do here. We're looking at things in totality.  
16 We have been -- as I said earlier, how we engaged  
17 mental health experts, security experts, and we  
18 meet with them regularly. We meet with them as a  
19 Board and they advise the Board as well. And,  
20 you know, we're working with them and taking  
21 their advice and recommendations as we prioritize  
22 the work that we're doing.

23 MS. ALHADEFF: Mr. Runcie, how are we giving  
24 extensive training for school staff?

25 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Through -- through

1 our ESE Department. They are training school  
2 staff and administrators on things such as the  
3 threat assessment processes that we have  
4 employed. So I can provide you some additional  
5 information, Ms. Alhadeff, on how that's going  
6 and I can get you with the folks in the ESE  
7 Department. I don't know the numbers but they  
8 are working with all of our schools.

9 MS. POPE: If I can add, you're absolutely  
10 right as you speak to what we like to call a  
11 mental health crisis that -- that's not only in  
12 response to the tragedy that happened here in  
13 this community but really across communities in  
14 Broward and states across the nation. There's an  
15 article called How to Prevent the Next School  
16 Shooting, Experts Say, on NPR. If you look that  
17 up, there are over 50 organizations, national and  
18 international organizations who put this article  
19 together after the tragedy here in Parkland that  
20 speaks to all of the things that we can do  
21 collectively, what school systems can do, what  
22 community behavior health partners can do, you  
23 know, what families and communities and -- what  
24 everyone can do to really begin to address the  
25 mental health crisis and how we can come together

1 to begin to address it early on with our young  
2 people, as early as, you know, elementary school,  
3 so that we don't have kids growing into what you  
4 all have been calling today, monsters, but really  
5 going deeper into mental health crisis.

6 So there's some work I think we all have to  
7 do. And as I shared a little bit earlier, that  
8 is work that all of us who are serving are really  
9 doing and learning and engaging our own trending  
10 around and having these conversations that we  
11 need to have. Because it is not just a Parkland  
12 issue, but really a national issue.

13 MR. CHISEM: Ms. \*\*\*\*\*?

14 SPEAKER: Good evening. Thank you for being  
15 here. My name is \*\*\*\*\* and I would like to just  
16 express how when I hear the word leader I think  
17 of a person who is leading by example. I think  
18 of a person who thinks out of the box. I know  
19 that every profession, regardless of what it is,  
20 there are boundaries within.

21 I feel at this point, Mr. Runcie, that your  
22 leadership has failed us, and many of us can  
23 agree on that. I also feel -- excuse me just one  
24 moment -- that your leadership has not set a  
25 presence in our community that you have our best

1 interest in mind.

2 You have allowed 2/14 to happen. And what I  
3 mean by that, the circumstances that led up to  
4 that could have been preventable. Okay?

5 What constitutes a threat?

6 When you refer to a threat are you referring  
7 to school-wide only; or are you referring to the  
8 safety of our children on a day-to-day basis  
9 one-on-one just like that?

10 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: All of that,  
11 including individuals that present threats to  
12 themselves.

13 SPEAKER: To themselves or to others?

14 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: To themselves, to  
15 others, to schools. Threats, period. That's how  
16 it's defined.

17 SPEAKER: Okay. It seems to me that what you  
18 are doing now or trying to do as you put it --  
19 that word, try, makes me very uncomfortable --

20 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: We're not trying,  
21 we're actually talking about changing --

22 SPEAKER: Well, try, is a very uncomfortable  
23 word for me. And what I'm thinking is, your  
24 involvement in making any sort of changes seems  
25 to be aftermath. It seems to be you're picking

1 up the pieces and you're trying in recovery mode.

2 What happened on prior to 2/14, if anything,  
3 to address the issues that I believe I heard you  
4 say, we recognize we have mental health issues?

5 What has been done prior to that?

6 Why does it take 17 deaths for you to take  
7 action?

8 Is it a facade just to keep us quiet? Is it  
9 a facade for the children in the school to make  
10 them feel more comfortable coming to school?

11 That's just some of my questions. I have  
12 more and I have to continue unless you have  
13 something to say now to that.

14 MR. CHISEM: May I just interject for a  
15 second? Certainly you will be able to provide us  
16 all of the rest of your questions, that  
17 information is listed above, but I think it's  
18 fair now to give them an opportunity to respond  
19 to your questions.

20 SPEAKER: Absolutely. I'd like an answer.

21 DR. WANZA: Good evening, again. I'll start.  
22 So prior to February 14th every school was  
23 charged with having a collaborative problem  
24 solving team. And that team is comprised of  
25 school leaders, it's comprised of teachers, it's

1       comprised of support staff, as well as guidance  
2       counselors, social workers, all types of  
3       different -- it's like a secondary level, if it's  
4       a coach or things of that nature, and also the  
5       parents, where at any time a child can be  
6       referred to the collaborative problem solving  
7       team for academic or behavioral, any type of  
8       concerns we think a child may be presenting. And  
9       so with the collaborative problem solving team  
10      they are charged with identifying concerns, but  
11      also looking at interventions that the school can  
12      employ. If, as they monitor the child and they  
13      determine that their interventions or what they  
14      are implementing with the student is not being  
15      successful, they then can recommend the child to  
16      the district behavior intervention team which  
17      then assesses the work of the collaborative  
18      problem solving team and determines if there are  
19      other interventions or if it is indeed  
20      appropriate to consider the child for placement  
21      in another educational setting. So that's one  
22      thing.

23             Also, the threat assessment process has been  
24      in place in the district since 2002. And so I  
25      can tell you that the requirement to have it now

1 reviewed, if you will, to a greater level by what  
2 at that time would have been an area  
3 administrative office, that was not in place up  
4 until now. So that is now what's a requirement  
5 for all schools. But we have had the  
6 collaborative problem solving team and the threat  
7 assessment process for quite some time.

8 I'm not going to say that it's, you know,  
9 perfect and it obviously had some gaps that  
10 brought us into play where we are now, but those  
11 are some of the things that were in place.

12 SPEAKER: Okay. But, specifically, who are  
13 those people that are responsible for that? Can  
14 Mr. Thompson answer for me?

15 DR. WANZA: So at -- so at MSD, so I will  
16 tell you that an administrator, and the school  
17 decides who the administrator is, and depending  
18 on the child who is presented for collaborative  
19 problem solving, the participant of that meeting  
20 may change, but some of the constants would be an  
21 administrator, a guidance counselor, if it's that  
22 student's guidance counselor, also a teacher, so  
23 the teacher representative could change. But  
24 there is typically someone in the dais function  
25 or the support -- let me just finish and I

1 promise I will hear everything you're saying. Or  
2 the support function that coordinates that  
3 process to ensure that those meetings happen and  
4 happen on a regularly scheduled time.

5 SPEAKER: That sounds wonderful.

6 What does a parent do when that doesn't  
7 happen?

8 DR. WANZA: So if a parent is requesting  
9 something and the school is declining the request  
10 or is not meeting the request, parents have the  
11 option of calling, at that time way back it was  
12 an area office. Today or ever since 2012 it's  
13 been the Office of Service Quality or the Office  
14 of School Performance & Accountability. I can  
15 give you the phone number.

16 SPEAKER: I have all the numbers.

17 DR. WANZA: Okay. Sorry.

18 SPEAKER: What I would like to ask is, what  
19 is protocol according to Broward County School's  
20 booklet as far as code of conduct for a child --

21 MR. CHISEM: So, Dr. Wanza, I will allow you  
22 to answer that, but I just want to be very  
23 mindful of the others. So if you can close that  
24 out, and I feel like if we make it through the  
25 questions, if they can't in their allotted time

1 we can bring them back. But I think we should  
2 close that out so that we can get to everyone  
3 else's questions.

4 SPEAKER: I want to finish my question. My  
5 question is, what is in the Code of Conduct for  
6 any student who has his nose broken in three  
7 places and for the assailant who did it? What is  
8 protocol for that?

9 And my other question is, what -- who does  
10 Mr. Thompson answer to? Is that your.

11 DR. WANZA: Mr. Thompson answers to the  
12 Office of School Performance & Accountability.

13 SPEAKER: Okay.

14 DR. WANZA: I'm going to tell you  
15 specifically because I want you to have that. He  
16 has a cadre director and then I supervise the  
17 cadre director.

18 SPEAKER: We spoke over a year ago when  
19 something happened at this school December 12th,  
20 2017. I spoke with Ms. Mickey Pope, I spoke with  
21 Mr. Runcie, on his private cell phone, I spoke  
22 with Mr. Thompson by force almost.

23 The school, itself, is very uncooperative.  
24 My son had his nose broken in three places.  
25 Everyone that I turned to including, Mr.

1 Thompson's secretary, tried to get rid of me.  
2 Meaning, I -- I am an educator. I don't teach in  
3 this county. I have three sons. I have never  
4 been involved with their teachers outside of PTA  
5 -- parent-teacher conferences. You would never  
6 have heard from me again if things were done  
7 correctly.

8 This is not about my son. This is about the  
9 way you do things and the way your wires get  
10 crossed. And the things that you say do not  
11 match your actions.

12 Let me continue. Now, this goes greater?

13 MR. CHISEM: Ms. \*\*\*\*\*, I will say that --

14 SPEAKER: Hold on one second.

15 MR. CHISEM: I'm going to be very respectful  
16 to you all. I just want to be very respectful of  
17 everyone. You all acknowledged that you want  
18 everyone to have an opportunity to speak.

19 Ms. \*\*\*\*\*, here's the beauty of it. We are  
20 looking to obtain all that information for you  
21 and it can't be elaborately that we just decide  
22 Ms. \*\*\*\*\* can stay here. We really need to get  
23 to everyone and if you are opting not to speak, I  
24 understand.

25 SPEAKER: Well, let me get an answer to my

1 question then.

2 MR. CHISEM: Dr. Wanza, do you recall exactly  
3 what her last question was?

4 DR. WANZA: I thought you were finished, but  
5 --

6 SPEAKER: We're talking about what happened  
7 to my son and getting turned away from every  
8 person that I spoke to at this school, through  
9 the county up to the State Attorney's Office and  
10 the FBI; okay?

11 So we have a case against your county. And  
12 it's not because of my son. This is much greater  
13 than my son.

14 And I would have shut up but then 2/14  
15 happened. And when I saw that and I have shown  
16 everyone in this school with authority pictures  
17 of the assailant of things that he had on  
18 Facebook as far as body parts, knives and blood  
19 and it was ignored.

20 When I came to the school what should happen  
21 to the assailant who did this to my son? Okay?

22 Oh, he had a three-day suspension. So as  
23 soon as I ask for an expulsion packet they call  
24 me up and said, okay, well now, because you asked  
25 for that, we have to give something to your son,

1 too. Okay? Which was a three-day suspension.  
2 But my son was home from prior to 12/12 until  
3 after the holiday break because he had surgery.  
4 So he filled his three-day suspension by  
5 coincidence and by going into the hospital.  
6 Okay?

7 Then I kept pushing and pushing. Where is  
8 \*\*\*\*\* now? The only reason he's out of this  
9 school is because he came in last August 2017 and  
10 was a senior. Any question -- where were you  
11 advocating for my son? What were you doing for  
12 this assailant? Nothing. And nothing would have  
13 gotten done if I didn't come and speak up to any  
14 of you here on the Board at the school. Nothing  
15 would have gotten done at all. So I took matters  
16 into my own hands after 2/14.

17 Because what happened to my son is exactly  
18 the kind of a student that was in this school  
19 that throughout I was assured by one of the APs,  
20 this will never happen again. It was caught on  
21 video. This wasn't a fight. My son didn't even  
22 lift a finger. This was an assault.

23 He was supposed to be arrested, Deputy  
24 Peterson said. That didn't happen. Nothing that  
25 you said happened. Everything that happened is

1 because I had to push for it and go forward.

2 What happened to my family is clear evidence,  
3 in my opinion, that what happened on 2/14  
4 easily -- I could see exactly why it happened,  
5 because you let these little things, this is a  
6 small event. Did you consider what happened to  
7 me small? If there was a fight, okay. Mr.  
8 Thompson, he's never once reached out to me the  
9 day it happened or any day after that. This is  
10 not a school where it's typical. Because that's  
11 atypical behavior in Marjory Stoneman Douglas, so  
12 why wasn't the assailant held accountable? Why  
13 wasn't he arrested? Why wasn't he --

14 MR. CHISEM: If you need to provide  
15 additional information --

16 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yeah, I have spoken  
17 to Ms. \*\*\*\*\* many times.

18 SPEAKER: Why is Mr. Thompson still here, Mr.  
19 Runcie, because you lead the principals in this  
20 county?

21 MS. POPE: Mrs. \*\*\*\*\* --

22 SPEAKER: You are not dealing with a group of  
23 people who are going to sit back when we see  
24 wrong being done. We were all shut up. Where is  
25 your radical movement? We need all of the things

1 you mentioned but that pacifies the good people.  
2 What are you doing to psychologically control the  
3 people who have mental issues who will be a part  
4 of these crimes, the drugs; what are you doing to  
5 scare them out of doing it? How are you scaring  
6 them out of doing it? Where are the detectors?  
7 Where are the consequences for them? I know you  
8 can't arrest somebody at a certain age. Come on,  
9 pull them out. That student was allowed on  
10 campus, \*\*\*\*\*.

11 Where is your zero tolerance? That's a lie.  
12 You tolerate it.

13 MR. CHISEM: With permission from the panel  
14 I'm really going to ask that we transition to  
15 those other speakers and if there's an  
16 opportunity for someone here to speak with Ms.  
17 \*\*\*\*\* separately --

18 SPEAKER: I don't need to speak to anyone  
19 separately. My lawyers will take care of it.  
20 But everybody here needs to know we are not safe.  
21 We are used to puppets and our children are at  
22 risk and they will continue to be at risk until  
23 you do something radical.

24 Why did this happen? What should we do?  
25 Even though my boundaries are right here, let me

1 see what I can do to help the people if I do  
2 really care. Do you really care? Have you ever  
3 said I'm sorry to me or to the families of the 17  
4 victims? God bless them.

5 SPEAKER: Hi, my name is \*\*\*\*\*. And I wasn't  
6 even going to mention this but I'm just going to  
7 piggyback on you. My kid got jumped by three  
8 people at this school, knocked his tooth out,  
9 went to the Coral Springs Police, they said go to  
10 the school. I went to the school, spoke to Scot  
11 Peterson, spoke to another teacher, nothing  
12 happened.

13 But that's not why I came today, but I'm  
14 saying it can happen to all of us. That's not  
15 why I'm here.

16 All right. I would like to address this  
17 question to Mr. Runcie. Mr. Runcie, what date do  
18 you expect to have the bus radio traffic to come  
19 out of county public safety radio system as  
20 recommended by the Broward County MSD Task Force?

21 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yeah, so over a year  
22 ago we worked with the county to put a schedule  
23 together. That schedule calls for this district  
24 to begin a migration process off of the current  
25 system that we're on onto a different -- onto a

1 different set of channels. That starts in March,  
2 where the configuration of the bus -- new bus  
3 radios will take place. Immediately at the end  
4 of the school year in early June we will begin to  
5 retrofit over 1,200 buses. That process will be  
6 completed before the start of next school year in  
7 August. So before school starts bus -- our bus  
8 operators, our bus drivers, will be driving and  
9 testing the new system. That's the schedule that  
10 has been put in place.

11 We were asked to work with the county to  
12 migrate off the system by the end of 2019. In  
13 2019 we will be off of that system by the summer.  
14 We came up with a schedule over a year ago and  
15 nothing has changed and we are on target to do  
16 that. So we're actually going to send a joint  
17 memo to the county --

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Your two minutes is up.

19 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I'm sorry?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Your two minutes is up.

21 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I don't think  
22 anybody's been limited to two minutes, so -- so  
23 we're going to send that memo to the county and  
24 we're going to send one to the School Board so we  
25 will have that information. I believe last week

1 there was some misinformation that was stated in  
2 the meeting and that continued to proliferate  
3 throughout. So that will be corrected. But  
4 that's the schedule we're on.

5 SPEAKER: Hi, \*\*\*\*\*. I just have a couple  
6 comments and a couple questions that I hope you  
7 can answer.

8 I have a son and daughter here, have two kids  
9 going here and dealing with everything that's  
10 going on for almost a year. I'm just very  
11 disappointed that it's taken almost a year for  
12 you guys to come out and address the parents of  
13 the school and to see and hear from us directly  
14 instead of so-called experts that are around the  
15 country.

16 You don't understand what's going on here in  
17 this community. You don't understand what these  
18 kids are going through. You don't understand  
19 what the teachers are going through dealing with  
20 what they have to deal with.

21 One of my direct questions is and I would  
22 like to know an answer to this. Do you feel that  
23 this school is safe?

24 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I would tell you that  
25 I can't sit here and tell you that any school is

1 100 percent safe. It is safer than where it was  
2 in February 2014 and we're going to work to make  
3 it safer. You know, the first part of your  
4 comments around teachers and students, I've met  
5 with groups of students here many times. I've  
6 had two faculty meetings, four faculty meetings  
7 here as well as met with groups of teachers as  
8 well. So I have met with MSD parents. We  
9 haven't had any large group meetings like this,  
10 and my sincere apologies for that not occurring,  
11 but I have had over 30 or so meetings with  
12 teachers, students and different parents groups  
13 in this community.

14 SPEAKER: What you don't see is when they  
15 leave the school and head home.

16 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I'm sorry. What was  
17 that?

18 SPEAKER: When they leave the school and head  
19 home and the struggles that they deal with, that  
20 we deal with, that our kids have been changed  
21 forever. And this takes -- and it's  
22 very disheartening to know that they come back to  
23 school and, as my son asked me the other day,  
24 when they had another code red that brings it all  
25 back up to him, what am I supposed to do in this

1 temporary building when they tell us to lay down  
2 on the floor and someone comes? I know they can  
3 shoot through the walls and the windows here. I  
4 don't see that as secure or protected in any way,  
5 shape or form.

6 Do you agree that those temporary buildings  
7 protect our children?

8 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: The temporary  
9 buildings are just that, they are temporary.  
10 It's not a long-term solution. I can tell you  
11 that there's been, you know, conversations about  
12 how secure they are, the windows. Those windows  
13 are hurricane proof windows. So those windows  
14 can withstand, you know, some levels of force.  
15 We are going to -- we have a full-time security  
16 person there, but we are going to look at both  
17 additional security enhancements we can put over  
18 by the portables. I'm committed to doing that  
19 and we'll figure something out how we can enhance  
20 that within the next couple weeks.

21 SPEAKER: Are the deputies that patrol the  
22 campus, are they employed by the district; are  
23 they trained by the district?

24 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I'm sorry, what was  
25 that?

1           SPEAKER: The deputies that are here to  
2 protect the children.

3           SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: No, we don't have  
4 deputies in the district. We have contracts with  
5 BSO. I believe they cover about 10  
6 municipalities. We also have about another 13  
7 contracts with various cities around Broward  
8 County. They supply the law enforcement, the  
9 trained law enforcement SROs in our schools.

10          SPEAKER: So are they involved in the  
11 training program?

12          SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes, they are  
13 trained. We have a training program. And I met  
14 with BSO last week, the sheriff and his staff, in  
15 particular the gentleman that's in charge of all  
16 the SROs, they are working to -- they are  
17 actually enhancing their training program and  
18 they are putting all of their officers through  
19 additional training, those that are covering the  
20 schools. So it's a priority on training in the  
21 area of oversight for them.

22          SPEAKER: And one final question is the  
23 building that still sits there today is a  
24 reminder. What are the plans for that?

25          SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I've asked for the

1 building to be down as soon as possible but we  
2 don't control that. The State Attorney's Office  
3 has control of that building and they've directed  
4 us to not interfere with that building, that it  
5 will be used in some evidentiary process, but --  
6 so we can't do anything with the building until  
7 the State Attorney's Office allows us to do  
8 something with it. We are moving forward with  
9 construction of the new building.

10 Ms. May will give us a status on that. I  
11 know we've gone through the design and so forth  
12 with the architects, but if you can just give a  
13 little more information to this gentleman.

14 SPEAKER: Before you do that, just to follow  
15 up. You talked about mental health, which is  
16 obviously important. But what I don't know if  
17 the message is getting clear to this day to  
18 whoever it is, that the mental health of the  
19 students on the campus that see that, the  
20 reminder every day, doesn't change.

21 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I agree 100 percent.  
22 That's why we pushed to do it. Again, I think it  
23 will take another voice, the parents in this  
24 room, in this community impressing it on the  
25 State Attorneys what your wishes are in terms of

1 the timeline relative to that building. I mean,  
2 I've mentioned it to them but I think really the  
3 community is going to be heard much more than I  
4 will be.

5 Ms. May?

6 DR. MAY: So the building is slated to start  
7 construction this summer and be finished prior to  
8 the start of school next year, the brand new  
9 building.

10 SPEAKER: That will replace all the  
11 temporaries?

12 DR. MAY: That will take care -- we'll move  
13 those portables out as soon as we get occupancy  
14 to move the students in, which should be  
15 completed prior to the start of the school next  
16 year, the 2020 school year.

17 DR. WANZA: I just wanted to make sure that  
18 was clarified that when the construction begins  
19 the summer of 2019, the building won't be  
20 completed and ready for occupancy until 2021.

21 DR. MAY: 2020. I apologize. It will take a  
22 year to build the building we are starting this  
23 summer.

24 MR. CHISEM: August of 2020. It will be the  
25 20-21 school year but it will be the period of

1 '20; correct? August 2020.

2 DR. MAY: August 2020.

3 MR. CHISEM: Which is 20-21 school year.

4 Ms. \*\*\*\*\*?

5 SPEAKER: Hi, I'm \*\*\*\*\*. I'm currently an  
6 educator. I have been a teacher for the past 20  
7 years and we have chatted many times.

8 I have a statement for you and then I have  
9 two questions. The first thing is a really sad  
10 thing that breaks my heart.

11 My son is alive by 45 seconds in room 1215.  
12 He chatted with this sweet little girl who was on  
13 the floor under her computer. His teacher came  
14 in, he was the last one in, she held his hand the  
15 whole time. He was unaware of what was going on  
16 behind the desk. Then he was approached by the  
17 SWAT team. He was escorted out with his class  
18 and he saw things that no one, no adult should  
19 ever see.

20 So my question is, when you talk about mental  
21 health, he suffered terrible, terrible post  
22 traumatic stress disorder seeing things in the  
23 hallway. He got very sick. I want to go back  
24 to, no one ever reached out to us when my son  
25 couldn't handle going back to school, not one

1 phone call, nothing. I don't want to say my  
2 son's name. I'm running into a problem. The  
3 victims compensation fund, the MSD Victims  
4 Compensation, supposedly it stops funding for  
5 children who get through a certain amount of  
6 counselling. What do we do as parents as of  
7 February 14th since supposedly it's going to stop  
8 the counseling? You talk about going to the  
9 wellness center, you can't just get an  
10 appointment right away. How do we -- how do we  
11 get that to continue? Are they planning on  
12 giving an extension to it for the many, many  
13 families who are taking advantage of that  
14 funding? That's my first question.

15 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Let me first say that  
16 I'm -- I'm just terribly sorry that somehow we  
17 haven't been able to reach you or you have been  
18 able to take advantage of the services that we've  
19 had here on the campus and in the community. We  
20 will work with you to make sure that your child  
21 gets the services needed. But if you could just  
22 give your name and information to our staff here,  
23 we'll deal with it immediately. I'm sorry that  
24 there was no followup, but we'll do whatever we  
25 need to do so support you as much as possible.

1           SPEAKER: My second. Question is, every day  
2 when I look in the classroom -- I teach in a  
3 rather large classroom because I'm an art  
4 educator, and I love what I do, but because of  
5 this incident I have fear. I have fear when we  
6 do every lockdown, every fire drill. We have  
7 been asked to remove the papers that cover our  
8 windows, which scares me. I'm also scared  
9 because I know the windows in my classroom are  
10 not bulletproof. So I guess this is a double  
11 question. Are the windows here at this school  
12 bulletproof? And what are the plans to make all  
13 windows safe for all teachers and their students  
14 so I can feel that there is glass to protect  
15 them?

16           SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: No, my understanding  
17 is the windows are not bulletproof. We don't  
18 have bulletproof windows on any of the  
19 20-something thousand classrooms in Broward  
20 County. That's not how these facilities were  
21 constructed.

22           You know, again, the security measures that  
23 we put in place, there are layers of security  
24 that we need to think about in terms of what we  
25 can make those investments in. So that is one of

1 the areas that's not something that -- when we  
2 look at things that we need to do now investing  
3 with our limited resources, putting bulletproof  
4 windows on every window in the county, it  
5 probably wouldn't be the most effective way for  
6 us to spend the dollars. Because here's what  
7 happens. You know, in some cases we over  
8 prescribe to what happened with the last incident  
9 instead of rethinking more holistically of lots  
10 of different scenarios that are commonplace and  
11 what can we do to make our schools as safe as we  
12 possibly can.

13 So, again, that's something that is on our  
14 list of things that's being discussed, but it's  
15 not something we're going to be putting in  
16 tomorrow, at least, bulletproof windows  
17 throughout Broward County.

18 SPEAKER: One final question. Why is it so  
19 important then that we not cover our windows?  
20 Because to me I think that would be a deterrent.  
21 Like we have to leave them open instead of  
22 covering them. Because I felt a little bit  
23 safer.

24 DR. WANZA: So a large amount of the feedback  
25 that we've received from our security consultants

1 with regard to covering windows is that, as much  
2 as we all want to prevent individuals to look in,  
3 then that prevents if someone has to get to you,  
4 so it's a look in, look out. It's two-way. And  
5 I do understand that you are trying to prevent an  
6 assailant from looking in, but it could be that  
7 first responder maybe to look in and we have  
8 blocked their ability to look in as well.

9 But we will go back, because we are meeting  
10 with them constantly, and we will see what we can  
11 do to mitigate that concern.

12 SPEAKER: Okay. One more question. The  
13 green slip says we are fine, so what does that  
14 mean? That doesn't make sense. In our training  
15 it tells us slide a green slip under the door  
16 which tells us that you're okay. So, to me, that  
17 really doesn't make sense.

18 DR. WANZA: So, like I said, we will go back,  
19 based on the feedback that we received from them  
20 and the commentary that you and other teachers  
21 have provided to us. Thank you.

22 MR. CHISEM: And just before -- Ms. Pope is  
23 it possible to have the contact information for  
24 everyone here?

25 MS. POPE: Please put it up -- so I

1 understand your need for additional counseling  
2 for your son and we would love to be able to  
3 support you through that even after the victims  
4 fund expires. We do have services, not only  
5 within the district but also outside the district  
6 with our behavioral health partners. You can  
7 find all that information at the website that's  
8 on the wall there.

9 And we do, as you know -- if you work in this  
10 building you know that we have an additional 25  
11 clinicians on campus. There's also a family  
12 therapist that is assigned to the zone to help  
13 with support. And where that service cannot be  
14 provided within the zone we do also refer out to  
15 our community partners. So on this particular  
16 website you'll find all of the trauma -- the  
17 continuous trauma reform and trauma specific  
18 services within all of Broward County, access to  
19 some additional free services for your son.

20 The other piece that I recommend is that you  
21 do talk to one of the guidance counselors  
22 regarding a 504 plan for your son, if that's  
23 something that you really believe that he needs,  
24 some additional services and some additional  
25 support. And in the audience today we have

1 several staff members that can help any of you  
2 with individual and specific questions or  
3 information that you need. I have our Director  
4 of School Counseling & BRACE -- -

5 MR. CHISEM: Ralph, can you stand up?

6 MS. POPE: -- Ralph Aiello.

7 We also have Dr. Lois Thompson, who is our  
8 Director of School Counseling.

9 MR. CHISEM: So, Dr. Thompson, I'd like you  
10 to come down and get her information and make  
11 sure that our counselors and trauma folks are  
12 working with her right away. So she's right here  
13 so I want you to talk to her directly.

14 Thank you.

15 Is it possible to have the next two speakers?  
16 I don't remember the names that were up there.

17 MS. POPE: Mr. Chisem?

18 MR. CHISEM: Oh, I'm sorry.

19 MS. ALHADEFF: It really infuriates me that  
20 I'm hearing that nobody reached out to the  
21 parents in the 1200 building. I know, as a  
22 parent, the district did not communicate or reach  
23 out to my family.

24 So I ask, Mr. Runcie, you know what, it's not  
25 too late, can we please reach out to all the

1 parents in the 1200 building?

2 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Absolutely. And,  
3 again, as Ms. Pope said, there has been outreach,  
4 what she mentioned was there was something that  
5 was done recently. We will do something again.  
6 We will do something again next week and work to  
7 try to provide specific services to them.

8 MS. ALHADEFF: And as far as the victims  
9 fund, I was told that there should be an  
10 additional grant for services. So I'd ask the  
11 district to find out that information and make  
12 sure that we effectively communicate that to all  
13 the parents.

14 MR. CHISEM: So I don't do any damage to the  
15 last names, if you see your name up would you  
16 come up? I want to make sure that I pronounce  
17 that properly. Not here?

18 So how about \*\*\*\*\*? Are you Ms. \*\*\*\*\*?

19 SPEAKER: Hello, I'm \*\*\*\*\*. My daughter was  
20 in the 1200 building and she lost her favorite  
21 teacher and several classmates. She wanted to be  
22 here tonight to speak. I told her she couldn't,  
23 but it was only for parents and guardians. And  
24 then she told me that \*\*\*\*\* was here last night  
25 and that she did speak.

1           So what should I tell my daughter?

2           SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I'm sorry, I didn't  
3 hear that.

4           DR. WANZA: So the question is around who  
5 announced that it was not for students but yet a  
6 student spoke last night; correct?

7           SPEAKER: It was definitely announced. It  
8 was definitely announced and e-mailed by Mr.  
9 Thompson that it was only for parents and  
10 guardians. And so I told my daughter that she  
11 was not allowed to attend.

12           SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: So, yes, initially it  
13 was primarily for parents. I'll tell you I've  
14 met with student groups here. I committed last  
15 night to for that young lady to organize whatever  
16 groups of students she wanted me to meet with,  
17 because she said there were ones that currently  
18 wanted me to meet with students here more  
19 regularly. If there is some specific student  
20 concerns we will cover those in meetings that we  
21 will have with students and will continue to  
22 have.

23           SPEAKER: So this all deals with  
24 communication. So, all right, so we'll just have  
25 to deal with that in just a second.

1           In regards to security, it's astounding that  
2 we don't have any clear changes. At least when  
3 the students were required to come back to school  
4 with clear backpacks, it was definitely not --  
5 although a lot of people didn't like it, but my  
6 daughter felt like it was clear that there was  
7 some attempt at some security. So right now we  
8 don't see any changes.

9           My nephew is at a school in Ohio that has  
10 mobile detectors. At least there's a chance of  
11 deterring someone. Why don't we do something  
12 like that?

13           DR. WANZA: So to answer your question, we  
14 communicated, I believe it was the first night,  
15 that we are going to go back and look at some  
16 options that could be implemented here on campus.  
17 But we are in the process of really going back,  
18 looking at different options for metal detection  
19 and we will come back once we have all the  
20 information that has been vetted by our School  
21 Board through our processes, but we do recognize  
22 that we have to give that greater attention here  
23 at this school. So we are going back, looking at  
24 a couple different options for metal detection  
25 and have a discussion with our School Board and

1 then bring what would be the best of the options.

2 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Five more years? Five or  
3 six more years it's going to take? It's already  
4 been a year. We're no further ahead than we were  
5 before.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are there metal detectors  
7 at other schools?

8 DR. WANZA: So there are not metal detectors  
9 at other schools. There are different wandering  
10 type of devices that are across a number of our  
11 high schools, but it isn't something that is done  
12 on a standard basis each and every day.

13 But to your point, sir, no, it would not be  
14 five or six years. And I don't mean to be  
15 disrespectful, but, no.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm trying to be. I'm just  
17 saying there's no sense of urgency. I see no  
18 sense of urgency. It's already been a year.

19 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: With all due respect,  
20 just today Ms. Alhadeff and I, we had that  
21 conversation with our School Board. We met up  
22 again. As I said before, we are looking into  
23 additional security measures to be put in place.

24 We clearly heard the concerns over the prior  
25 two meetings about the need of some kind of metal

1 detection devices, processes we can put in place  
2 to enhance security, and I gave my commitment  
3 that we were going to look at that in earnest and  
4 talk to our School Board about it. Nothing has  
5 been finalized but that's something we are doing  
6 right now. It's a priority item to the point  
7 where we, again, discussed it with the whole  
8 School Board today and we're going to have  
9 additional conversations this month and we'll be  
10 able to make a decision on that before the  
11 month's end.

12 SPEAKER: In regards to fire alarms, I was  
13 here in August for my 9th grader's orientation.  
14 While we were hearing the fire alarm go off Mr.  
15 Thompson took the opportunity to point out that  
16 the sound is like the bells on the cruise ships,  
17 that ding, ding, ding. My older daughter's  
18 sitting here in the audience and it has not  
19 changed. What happened?

20 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: What hasn't changed?

21 SPEAKER: The fire alarm sound.

22 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Ms. May will address  
23 that.

24 DR. MAY: So we're working to make sure that  
25 the new fire alarm system that comes with the

1 bond has a different sound from the sound that we  
2 currently have.

3 SPEAKER: So we heard it in August while I  
4 was sitting right here and it was the sound. And  
5 he announced, this is the sound, and it didn't  
6 change.

7 DR. MAY: Okay. That may have been something  
8 through the intercom system, a different sound,  
9 but the fire alarm sound at this point has not  
10 changed from the original. Because we have not  
11 put in the new fire alarm system yet.

12 SPEAKER: Why not?

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Why does everything take so  
14 long?

15 DR. MAY: It is part of what was included in  
16 your bond work. I met with the designer over the  
17 summer to explain to him exactly what we wanted  
18 with the new system, the sound, everything. And  
19 it currently is in design and they are working on  
20 that system.

21 SPEAKER: I know that that was supposed to be  
22 changed. I know that it's something that  
23 Columbine came back with like the next day. So  
24 it's shocking that it's been a year and it still  
25 hasn't changed. I don't care about all the other

1 schools, not to be disrespectful to them, I care  
2 about this one.

3 So my next question has to do with mental  
4 health. Last year, soon after the terrible  
5 shooting, my daughter's class, they came in and  
6 handed them a form and filled out a checklist and  
7 they had to say if they had PTSD or not; based on  
8 their scores. The social worker passed out these  
9 papers, the students took pictures of their  
10 papers, their scores, to see if they had PTSD or  
11 not.

12 First of all my husband's a psychologist so  
13 he was like what a disservice. The fact that  
14 they didn't have any supervision, it was handled  
15 irresponsibly and bordered on unethical. So the  
16 fact -- so so many kids come home and say, I  
17 don't have PTSD, because of their scores, when  
18 they may, and then other kids who know they do  
19 have PTSD, based on their scores, they may not.  
20 So this is just unacceptable that this is  
21 happening at this school.

22 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: So one of the things  
23 that I would like Ms. Pope to talk about is we  
24 are going to be sharing information more  
25 extensively on opportunities to use 504 plans to

1 provide accommodations for all of the student, so  
2 maybe you can talk about that in a little more  
3 detail, please.

4 MS. POPE: That quick universal assessment  
5 that you're speaking of was an initial attempt by  
6 our clinicians on campus to begin to identify  
7 students who needed some immediate assistance.  
8 It was not an extensive psychological evaluation  
9 by no means, and it was really to begin to have  
10 conversations with kids in getting them some  
11 awareness. And it did help us to identify some  
12 students immediately to begin working with. And  
13 we received some feedback from parents who were  
14 happy we were doing it. We did get some calls  
15 from other parents who were concerned about it.  
16 We explained it. But we did do a universal  
17 screening initially and that's what you're  
18 speaking to.

19 Since then the kids have gone through  
20 receiving some more extensive services, more  
21 extensive conversations with our family  
22 therapists who are now trauma trained, so some  
23 deeper work that has happened since then. That  
24 was very early on.

25 So to Mr. Runcie's point and response, we're

1 working -- with the additional clinicians that  
2 have been assigned to the school, there has been  
3 some, I guess, comprehensive review of the needs  
4 of students so that they can get additional  
5 services through family therapy as well as the  
6 wellness centers that are here, but also to make  
7 sure that we're addressing their academic needs  
8 through 504, the supports that they need in order  
9 to function on campus and, you know, in  
10 classrooms.

11 So the work has grown since that initial  
12 assessment, universal assessment, that was given.

13 MS. ALHADEFF: I would ask Mr. Runcie that we  
14 get parent permission to do these types of tests  
15 before they're actually done. We do it for  
16 scoliosis screening, hearing, eyesight testing.  
17 So definitely, I think, can we do that moving  
18 forward?

19 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes, we can, and I  
20 think that's absolutely appropriate. It came up  
21 the other day as well. And I know Ms. Pope took  
22 note of that to make sure that maybe there's some  
23 sort of permission or opt-out process that we'll  
24 put in place any time we do these large processes  
25 that may impact students.

1           SPEAKER: And my last thing, I'm sorry to  
2 take up so much time, my last question is we have  
3 a new principal, another principal, and neither  
4 of my daughters ever knew that we do. They've  
5 never heard of her. And I know she's not  
6 personally -- they don't feel like she's there  
7 for them every day, so who is she and can you  
8 tell us a little bit more about her?

9           Thank you.

10          DR. WANZA: I'm sorry. So the coprincipal,  
11 her name is Teresa Hall. It was -- I did send  
12 home a letter that went to all the parents back,  
13 I believe it was in May of 2018. I did ask  
14 Principal Thompson to send it out to all the  
15 parents introducing her. She is here. She's in  
16 the auditorium. She's the former principal of  
17 West Broward High School. And we will make sure  
18 that there are more opportunities for some type  
19 of interaction with Mrs. Hall, but she has been  
20 here since the summer and that -- that notice  
21 explaining her coming and some rationale as to  
22 why she was coming was sent home. It was sent  
23 out under my signature and I can provide the  
24 letter at any time. I can update and re-send it  
25 again, but she is here. We have had

1 conversations about ensuring that she is  
2 interacting with staff, PTSO and all the parent  
3 groups, as well. So she's here every day.

4 I will also say, additionally, from my office  
5 after conversations that we've had, as you will  
6 recall, Scott Jarvis, who is an assistant  
7 director from my office, is here every Tuesday.  
8 He's here from about 7:00 in the morning until  
9 about 3:30, 4:00 in the afternoon, and he's here  
10 to work with the school in addressing concerns  
11 that parents are having that are not being met to  
12 their satisfaction or to the degree that they  
13 would like at the school level. So instead of  
14 having to call my office or come down he is  
15 stationed here every Tuesday from about 7, 7:30  
16 until about 4:00 in the afternoon.

17 MR. CHISEM: We have two additional, I think  
18 it's Stacy Kagan, Commissioner, are you here?

19 COMMISSIONER KAGAN: Yes.

20 MR. CHISEM: All the way in the back. And I  
21 think we also have Vice Mayor, Ken Cutler; are  
22 you also here? He's also here tonight.

23 Thank you for joining us.

24 DR. MAY: So before we move forward let me  
25 just address a couple more things on the fire

1 drills, because I know that you're very concerned  
2 in this community with the sound of the fire  
3 alarm. We have very specific fire codes that we  
4 have to follow with doing the drills. However, I  
5 have been in contact with the State Fire  
6 Marshall's office, there have been conversations  
7 with DOE, we have waived at least four fire  
8 drills for this year. So, in lieu of that we are  
9 doing some fire safety education with the kids.  
10 And I'm a firm believer, that while we have a lot  
11 of fire safety aspects in our schools, that we  
12 want our kids as they move through life to be  
13 fire safety educated in their homes, when they're  
14 at the theater, when they're in nightclubs,  
15 wherever they're at, that they have that  
16 education. So we are starting that in Broward  
17 County with the fire safety education and doing a  
18 lot of our pilot testing here at the school with  
19 that education.

20 We are going to continue to work with the  
21 State Fire Marshall's Office and with DOE to get  
22 whatever relief we can for this school and we are  
23 currently working through the legislative process  
24 to try and reduce the number of drills that we  
25 are required to do.

1 MR. CHISEM: I did want to share with  
2 everyone here, we just have those four remaining  
3 speakers and I think it would be really great if  
4 all of you had an opportunity to come up with  
5 your two minutes, ask your questions and then  
6 provide the opportunity with whatever remaining  
7 time it could be with someone if someone just  
8 needed to ask an additional question.

9 So if you will come up and introduce yourself  
10 if your name is on the board.

11 SPEAKER: My name is \*\*\*\*\* and my daughter's  
12 name is \*\*\*\*\*. She was gunshot in the 1200  
13 building because the bathroom in this building  
14 was closed because the band director, they like  
15 the bathroom closed because the kids make the  
16 bathroom dirty.

17 I want to know who give the authority to that  
18 teacher to close the bathroom. I want to know  
19 who give the authority for him to close a  
20 bathroom. I want to know who gave him the  
21 authority to close that bathroom?

22 I will ask to you, Mr. Runcie.

23 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: So --

24 SPEAKER: Can I finish?

25 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Oh, okay, I thought

1 you were.

2 SPEAKER: I asked to you this question a few  
3 months ago, after the incident happened, and I'm  
4 still waiting for your answer. I don't have an  
5 answer yet.

6 My question to you is, why this nightmare far  
7 away from a year happened, from this incident  
8 happened, I'm still waiting for Mr. Runcie to  
9 contact any member of the family that lost a kid  
10 that day and that have the kids injured that day?

11 Can you pass the microphone to Mr. Thompson?  
12 Because this is my first time and last time to  
13 see Mr. Thompson, because I want to know from him  
14 why I'm still waiting and why we are still  
15 waiting for you to take the phone or just drive  
16 by to the house and ask if we need something from  
17 you guys?

18 That is the only question I ask to you, Mr.  
19 Runcie. And the same thing, I do want answers  
20 for everybody over here and I would like you to  
21 pass the microphone to Mr. Thompson. Please, I  
22 want to hear from him.

23 Don't say he's not part of this meeting. I  
24 would like to know why Mr. Thompson never reached  
25 any member of the family for the injured kids and

1 for the family that lost their kids.

2 MR. CHISEM: Well sir, I know Mr. Runcie  
3 wanted to answer you, but I think that the intent  
4 of this evening is to direct questions to the  
5 panel. I do know that Mr. Thompson's supervisor  
6 is here, as well, so she can give you any  
7 feedback on that.

8 MS. ALHADEFF: Why can't Mr. Thompson answer  
9 the question?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And have the bathrooms  
11 unlocked, not locked. Because they locked them  
12 they put children in harm's way and it's  
13 unacceptable.

14 MS. ALHADEFF: The question is directed to  
15 Mr. Thompson. Have Mr. Thompson answer the  
16 question.

17 MR. CHISEM: The question is why the bathroom  
18 was closed?

19 SPEAKER: The question is why the bathroom  
20 was closed and the second question is why he  
21 never reached any of the families, not one family  
22 that lost a kid or another kid who was injured?

23 MR. CHISEM: We're going to answer both of  
24 your questions. We're going to start with Mr.  
25 Runcie and then Mr. Thompson is going to answer.

1           MR. THOMPSON: All I can say is I'm sorry.  
2           But I can say this, I have met with all of the  
3           kids and I have talked with all of your --  
4           actually, specifically, I've talked to the kids  
5           and every time I see them I always check in with  
6           them because they're here and I can work with  
7           them.

8           All I can say is I'm feeling the same trauma  
9           that you guys are, you know, and it's very, very  
10          difficult for me, as well. And all I can say is  
11          that I apologize for not reaching out to you  
12          directly. I did attend all 17 of the funerals.  
13          But I have been in contact with your kids while  
14          they're here to check on them and see how they're  
15          doing along with having my assistant principals  
16          also checking with them on a pretty regular  
17          basis.

18          That's my response.

19          SPEAKER: Okay. And what happened about the  
20          bathroom? Who gave you authority to let the band  
21          director to close the bathroom?

22          And not only that, some of the kids in the  
23          1200 building that lost their life that day, they  
24          were running to those bathrooms to try to hide in  
25          them and those bathrooms was locked.

1           Who gave the authority to the cleaning people  
2           to lock the bathroom?

3           MR. THOMPSON: There is common practice in  
4           this district prior to February 14th that if  
5           there is issues in a bathroom, whether that be  
6           plumbing, graffiti, vandalism, drug use, things  
7           like that would cause them to be possibly closed  
8           down. I think that was the situation in the 1200  
9           building. So they tried to have one location so  
10          that security was trying to monitor that area.

11          Obviously, this is a lesson learned, and  
12          since then there's now been a policy instituted  
13          from the district saying that all bathrooms are  
14          to stay open at all times barring a safety issue  
15          as far as a toilet broken or some kind of  
16          vandalism issue.

17          SPEAKER: That means that day in the 1200  
18          building, if in this building the bathroom was  
19          locked for the same issue, is there any record  
20          that you can show to me that that is true, that  
21          that day, February 14th, 2018, the bathroom was  
22          closed because there was a plumbing issue, a  
23          graffiti issue?

24          Is there any record about it that you could  
25          show to me to support your answer?

1 MR. THOMPSON: It's not going to be a written  
2 situation. I mean, on that particular day when  
3 one of our administrators made the decision to  
4 close down the bathroom it was because of the  
5 situation that I explained.

6 SPEAKER: Well, what happened to my daughter,  
7 she was in this building, she has nothing to do  
8 in the 1200 building, and she got shot because  
9 she went into that building to use the bathroom.

10 MR. THOMPSON: You're referring to the  
11 bathrooms here, the band bathrooms?

12 SPEAKER: Yes.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Those bathrooms here have been  
14 completely opened since then. Those are  
15 individual bathrooms and so that was an issue  
16 where the kids were going in there and locking  
17 themselves in and doing inappropriate type  
18 things, so that was controlled by key. That is  
19 an individual bathroom in the band area. That  
20 instance has been rectified and now those  
21 bathrooms are now opened on a permanent basis.

22 SPEAKER: Well, thank you for your answer.

23 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, thank you.

24 SPEAKER: Now, how about you, Mr. Runcie, are  
25 you ready to answer how February 14th, 2018, and

1 you are the boss, can you answer me why they did  
2 those issues and why you didn't visit the family  
3 of the dead kid or kids or any of the injured  
4 kids? I know your answer. Would you like to  
5 answer again that question?

6 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Is your question  
7 around the bathroom?

8 SPEAKER: No, why you never reached us after  
9 the --

10 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: So we have given  
11 direction now to all of the schools that, as Mr.  
12 Thompson has indicated, bathroom doors on  
13 campuses are to remain unlocked during school  
14 hours. That's throughout the entire county not  
15 just at MSD.

16 SPEAKER: Why did you never reach any family?

17 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I'm sorry. What was  
18 that?

19 SPEAKER: Why did you never reach any family  
20 to ask them if they need something?

21 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Why didn't I reach  
22 any family?

23 SPEAKER: You never saw me. You never come  
24 by my house to ask me if I need something. You  
25 never asked somebody else in our family. What's

1       happening over here is you only have for those  
2       families that I'm sorry you lost a kid. But we  
3       are still alive. You can't imagine everything  
4       that happened to our family and everything has to  
5       be suffered. Every single day is a challenge for  
6       us all.

7                SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Sir, with all due  
8       respect, I've had three meetings with you and a  
9       number of other families that were injured at the  
10      Resiliency Center.

11              SPEAKER: I asked you to answer to me on the  
12      first thing. You're a busy person and you don't  
13      have time to stop to say, hi, I'm sorry to our  
14      family or to reach out?

15              I will tell you something right now,  
16      something right now that wants to be discussed  
17      with everybody because it's a problem. Well, I'm  
18      going to tell you. My daughter, she has three  
19      more surgeries that have to be done. And I  
20      cannot make those surgeries because the office  
21      bill is \$24,000 and the hospital is higher. A  
22      doctor who take care of my daughter was nice and  
23      they never paid the bill for that doctor. Nobody  
24      help any of the injured families that have the  
25      same issue. But we're not talking in public

1 about this. It's embarrassing. But my daughter,  
2 she is going to have the second -- in December to  
3 have the second surgery, the third surgery  
4 because she has another three more surgeries that  
5 have to be done, but the third one can't be done  
6 because there's no funding to pay those bills for  
7 my daughter. And the insurance company, they  
8 don't care.

9 Are you going to do something about that?

10 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I mean, we'll work  
11 with -- so is your question about getting access  
12 to additional services for help?

13 SPEAKER: My family needs it. They need it.  
14 Other families need it.

15 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: All right. Well,  
16 I'll work with our counselors. They will meet  
17 with you and we'll see what we can do in terms of  
18 getting you access to resources to be able to  
19 help deal with some of those services that you're  
20 getting for your daughter.

21 SPEAKER: Hi. My name is \*\*\*\*\*, and my  
22 question is for Mr. Runcie.

23 Mr. Runcie, you canceled the first meeting  
24 because you felt unsafe to come and speak with  
25 all the parents here, and yet it took you one

1 week to schedule four separate meetings to  
2 separate us, the families, that want to speak to  
3 you. It would have been so easy for you to go to  
4 the Coral Springs Center of the Arts and speak  
5 with all three. But you felt unsafe to and  
6 canceled the first original meeting that you had  
7 scheduled with us.

8 So you felt unsafe.

9 Imagine the 2,000 kids coming to this school.  
10 And now, as we walked into these doors, we felt  
11 the presence of the police outside that makes you  
12 feel more secure.

13 Our kids do not get that daily. Our kids do  
14 not get that police presence or they do not feel  
15 secure when they come into this school every day.  
16 Every day.

17 So -- and then we have kids that come into  
18 this school and they now have to go through  
19 problems because some criminal records last week  
20 or I believe it was this week I called the school  
21 to see if those kids are allowed to come back to  
22 school, obviously they had not given me answers  
23 because they cannot speak about the other  
24 students. What about the other 3,000 students  
25 that come to this school?

1           If these kids are doing criminal activity  
2 outside, why aren't the procedures for the school  
3 to keep them away while they go through the  
4 process? I don't know about the time of that  
5 process, for you to determine if those kids are  
6 safe to come to school or if those kids should be  
7 somewhere else because we all require our young  
8 to have education. So I don't know if those kids  
9 were allowed to come back, and I don't feel  
10 secure not knowing. Because if those kids are  
11 able to steal cars and, you know, have guns and  
12 now they're returning to the school, they put  
13 another 3,000 kids in danger.

14           So my question is, what is that process for  
15 those kids that are taken by police and they are  
16 in the process of seeing if they have some sort  
17 of criminal record or the next step what they do  
18 with them?

19           MS. POPE: I can explain that process to you.  
20 When a student is arrested, whether it's in  
21 school or a child is arrested in the community,  
22 they are processed through law enforcement, a  
23 juvenile assessment center, and determination is  
24 made at that point what charges will be filed.  
25 There are some charges that will have the court

1 decide to hold that child in a juvenile justice  
2 system from 20 days up, and there are charges  
3 that release them until their court date. And  
4 that is determined by the court system. And we  
5 will have court orders for those students to  
6 return back to school. There are specific --  
7 specific infractions or crimes that when the  
8 child is returning we take them through the  
9 behavior intervention committee to determine  
10 where they would access their educational  
11 services within the system. But we are required  
12 by law to educate those students as long as they  
13 are school age. So we make a determination based  
14 on the crime where they will access those  
15 services.

16 SPEAKER: Forgive me if I don't trust the  
17 system. As we all know it failed us.

18 So what about the other students? We were  
19 never notified by the school for any of these  
20 kids who go through that trouble. Those kids  
21 obviously needed help. And if they are deemed by  
22 the court or whatnot and they are allowed to come  
23 back to school, that's exactly what happened  
24 before. Those kids need attention and help and a  
25 system to prevent them. But if they are returned

1 to this school where there are over 3,000  
2 students they're not going to get the help they  
3 need, obviously. We've seen it before. We've  
4 heard it many times here that those kids are  
5 returned to school even after they assault  
6 another kid, after they've jumped another kid and  
7 there's no consequences. Meanwhile, we have  
8 other students here that they could be at risk.  
9 And they're not safe. Not only because the  
10 security is not enough, but because we don't --  
11 they don't have any consequences for any of these  
12 kids doing what they're not supposed to.

13 MS. POPE: Well, I'm sure that you heard me  
14 earlier mention the zero tolerance law that  
15 guides a lot of what's written in our Code of  
16 Student Conduct. We also have from the  
17 Department of Education, guidelines for how we  
18 can address misconduct. It's a section of  
19 guidelines that come from the Department of  
20 Education that must be in our Code of Student  
21 Conduct.

22 So a lot of what we do is driven by law and  
23 policy from the state. However, in this law it  
24 speaks to what happens with misdemeanors.  
25 Misdemeanors, basically, will not have a child,

1 you know, going into the juvenile justice system  
2 and keeping them. A lot of felonies do, but they  
3 do return to school and we must serve them by  
4 law.

5 MS. ALHADEFF: So on that point, though, I  
6 think if they commit a crime on Sunday and they  
7 come back to school on Monday, there's the  
8 difference between law enforcement and the  
9 schools, there's different styles of  
10 communication. Are we communicating with our  
11 local law enforcement?

12 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes, and that is --  
13 so we do communicate with law enforcement. There  
14 is a process in which the information that the  
15 juvenile assessment center when the students are  
16 processed, staff with the district will get it  
17 daily. They will pick up that information so we  
18 know the students are processed. In some cases  
19 even the municipality that arrested the student  
20 would actually send us whatever processing  
21 information they have.

22 Ultimately, as Ms. Pope talked about, it is  
23 the disposition of the courts that determine  
24 exactly what happened. Based on that disposition  
25 that student is either returned to school for a

1 misdemeanor; we then process them within the  
2 district. But a lot of it is actually, as she  
3 mentioned, determined by the courts and the state  
4 laws that define what happens with a student.

5 MS. POPE: And much of the recommendations  
6 regarding the system that came out of the Marjory  
7 Stoneman Douglas Safety Commission speak to a  
8 greater collaboration of communication between  
9 law enforcement and the school system, as well as  
10 new reporting structures. We are complying with  
11 the recommendations from the commission.

12 So right now we are putting into what is  
13 called a prevention web. Any child within our  
14 system, any student within our system that  
15 commits -

16 (Brief interruption.)

17 DR. MAY: Everyone please remain seated.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: If my daughter was seated  
19 up there I would be appalled right now.

20 MS. POPE: I guess I will continue  
21 mid-sentence. We are putting into the prevention  
22 web system, which is a system that is shared with  
23 the Division of Juvenile Justice, law enforcement  
24 and a few other organizations that have access to  
25 review students who engage in misdemeanors into

1 that system, so that law enforcement as well as  
2 all of these, DJJ, school districts, will know  
3 when a student commits a crime on the outside  
4 or -- outside school or inside of school.

5 SPEAKER: But shouldn't the parents be  
6 notified of at least some activity that happened  
7 at school? Without naming names of any kids, I  
8 believe that we all should be informed of the  
9 students that had or went through all that  
10 process that they are allowing to return to  
11 school at least. We don't know.

12 You know, if kids are here and we don't feel  
13 safe by those kids coming, they should not be  
14 able to return to school, they should go to other  
15 places and get the help they need.

16 MS. POPE: I think that -- you know, I've  
17 heard that piece before. The bottom line is that  
18 the kids who are in the school are also the kids  
19 who are out in our community. So, informing you  
20 that these kids are in school who have committed,  
21 you know, whatever offense or -- is -- there's no  
22 way you can remove them from the community, so  
23 they will be along with your kids whether they're  
24 in the building or outside of the building.

25 So if it's about looking at what's happening

1 in the building to address it, looking at school  
2 climate, looking at incidents that are happening  
3 within the building, you're absolutely right,  
4 that is -- that happens, I know, at the  
5 administrative level, and maybe that is something  
6 that the PTAs, PTOs can become involved in a  
7 conversation around, about how to, you know,  
8 address issues, disciplinary issues that are  
9 happening within the school and addressing school  
10 climate. So these things, I think, are good  
11 conversations to have with the staff, with  
12 administration and with parents and community,  
13 without naming names.

14 DR. MAY: So I did find out that we had a  
15 grid go down, an electrical grid that affected  
16 the school and affected other areas. We will  
17 have the lighting checked in the auditorium  
18 tomorrow. I can tell you that any building that  
19 is on a generator the lighting does not come in  
20 15 seconds. So there is a delay. So we will  
21 have the auditorium checked and the rest of the  
22 school to what's connected to the generator and  
23 maybe need to be redone.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Emergency lighting's in the  
25 batteries.

1 DR. MAY: No, it's not always the batteries.  
2 Sometimes it's in the lights themselves. But we  
3 will verify that tomorrow.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Those are batteries because  
5 I have them in my office.

6 SPEAKER: Hello. I know everybody is tired  
7 and been here a while. I'll make this as quick  
8 as I can.

9 My name is \*\*\*\*\* and my daughter is \*\*\*\*\*.  
10 She was in the 1200 building last year. I  
11 have five original questions, I brought it down  
12 to three because some of them were already  
13 answered.

14 My first question, why has Ty not been -- I'm  
15 sure he's a great man, a great father, a great  
16 husband, but why is he still working at MSD when  
17 innocent students and teachers were murdered,  
18 17 were shot, all under his watch? Why is he  
19 still here?

20 Can someone please answer that question?

21 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Yes, ma'am, I will  
22 answer your question. We have -- as we've  
23 communicated to this community and to the public,  
24 as the MSD Commission Report was completed,  
25 through my conversations with them and we

1 actually have that information which we received,  
2 including all their investigative material, we  
3 have turned that over to our own independent  
4 investigators that we've hired to go through our  
5 due process that we have to do in the district  
6 and we will expand that investigation as we move  
7 forward. And so that's where we are at the  
8 moment. I can't really say much more than that  
9 other than we are holding the investigation, we  
10 are going to hold folks accountable as we move  
11 forward through the investigation process.

12 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What timeline is this?

13 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Sir, those  
14 investigations have been going on -- the  
15 commission took about 10 months. We're not  
16 taking 10 months. We're trying to get all of  
17 this completed before the end of this school  
18 year, which is the next few months.

19 SPEAKER: The second question is, how many  
20 how many students are currently enrolled in the  
21 PROMISE program today?

22 MS. POPE: I cannot tell you what attendance  
23 we have today.

24 SPEAKER: Why not?

25 MS. POPE: That's not something that I check

1 daily.

2 SPEAKER: Can you get back to us?

3 MS. POPE: Sure.

4 SPEAKER: The follow-through of the PROMISE  
5 program is what hurt our community and why  
6 Nikolas Cruz fell through the cracks.

7 You should know that answer every single day.

8 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Please ma'am, let me  
9 just say this.

10 It is very difficult to move forward and  
11 actually get real solutions unless we're trying  
12 to solve the real problem. The commission has  
13 stated on a number of occasion, one, this  
14 individual, we have no record of him  
15 participating in the PROMISE program.

16 Number two, if that were the case, the  
17 PROMISE program is not even relevant or material  
18 to any outcome in this situation.

19 So I understand the -- what's happened  
20 publicly with it, but we need to actually deal  
21 with facts and realities so we can actually put  
22 in solutions and fix things that are going to  
23 bring about change.

24 And so that's all I would say to that, ma'am.

25 And by the way, the PROMISE program, take the

1 name off the program. That -- what we do here,  
2 as Ms. Pope identified, is defined in state  
3 statute for every district. Including the chair  
4 of the commission, Chair Gualtieri, with tell you  
5 it exists in this district. These pre-diversion  
6 programs are required by state laws to provide  
7 services to kids that are involved in nonviolent  
8 nonthreatening misdemeanor situations. That's  
9 what they are.

10 Now, understanding that, we are making some  
11 changes to what we have done. There are two  
12 recommendations that they had which is a little  
13 bit different in Broward County. Number one, was  
14 the fact that the -- there was a -- there wasn't  
15 a limit on the referrals as you go through them.  
16 Number two, was the re-set. They would re-set  
17 each year. We have an item coming forth this  
18 month to formally change that policy. But we  
19 have instituted it at the start of this school  
20 year. So those two things are changed. So it's  
21 effectively what you would find in any other  
22 county in the State of Florida at this moment.

23 SPEAKER: I understand and thank you. But  
24 before this all happened last year I didn't even  
25 know what a PROMISE program was.

1 My question is, my daughter and many of our  
2 children go to school here every day. I just  
3 want to know how many kids in MSD are in the  
4 PROMISE program. That's it.

5 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Oh, okay. We'll get  
6 you that information. We'll get you that  
7 information. We don't know that at the moment.

8 SPEAKER: We don't need to talk about metal  
9 detectors and assessments because you've already  
10 talked about that.

11 My last question. As an HR recruiter I ask  
12 this question many times. Runcie, do you like  
13 your job?

14 Secondly, can you 100 percent honestly say  
15 tonight to all of us, are you doing everything  
16 within your realm to make our children safer than  
17 a year ago?

18 So it's two questions. And please answer  
19 honestly.

20 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: And the answer is yes  
21 and I would say that on any Bible, so help me  
22 God. This is what I get up to do every single  
23 day. And I know there are folks that are angry  
24 and they're not satisfied with what we're doing  
25 and you have a right to be, given the tragedy and

1 the trauma that has existed here. We -- yeah,  
2 I'm working every day relentlessly with our staff  
3 to put things in place to improve security and  
4 address the needs that we have.

5 This is a -- it's a tragedy of enormous  
6 proportion here. And it's going to take  
7 continued effort, sacrifice on my part and staff  
8 and everyone, and most of all of us working in  
9 the community to ultimately do what's in the best  
10 interest of our kids moving forward. So I would  
11 ask for that grace and understanding.

12 SPEAKER: Please reconsider that huge Town  
13 Hall for our community.

14 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Oh, no, we are having  
15 one. We're already scheduling one. It will be  
16 here somewhere probably in Coral Springs. I'm  
17 working with Board Member Alhadeff to confirm the  
18 date and the location. We're going to try to get  
19 that determined by the end of the week, and,  
20 hopefully, next week we will send out  
21 communication that that's firmed out. But we  
22 have to check on it and make sure we coordinate  
23 availability. So that's where we are. We are  
24 absolutely going to have a Town Hall Meeting in  
25 addition to these meetings. We're just trying to

1 make as many opportunities as we can to share. I  
2 think at the Town Hall Meeting we set we want our  
3 security risk assessment consultant to be there  
4 as well to share their findings and  
5 recommendations with the public as well.

6 SPEAKER: I'm \*\*\*\*\* and I'm a substitute  
7 teacher for the district. I really wanted to go  
8 and speak tonight. A lot of things I was going  
9 to say though were already addressed.

10 However, I came to speak because, Mr. Runcie,  
11 when you said when you came here in 2011 and you  
12 said all the things that you had done it kind of  
13 bothered me. Because you guys talk about safety,  
14 you talk about the tragedy that really touched  
15 all of us and I felt like you were bragging and I  
16 really didn't like that.

17 However, those programs that you were talking  
18 about, some of them actually I think are  
19 partially responsible for the tragedy. This  
20 criminal was passed from one person to the other,  
21 from one institution to the other because nobody  
22 wanted to really be responsible to give him the  
23 help that he needed and he was dumped back into  
24 the general population of Douglas.

25 So I guess my question is, when can you take

1 responsibility for your behaviors? When are we  
2 going to see anyone be held accountable for those  
3 failures?

4 I have not seen really anyone coming over and  
5 saying, this is why I got it wrong. I'm sorry.  
6 I have never heard anybody being held accountable  
7 for it. And we're all hurting. And especially  
8 the 17 families who lost loved ones.

9 So how about the accountability?

10 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: So, ma'am, I can't  
11 say enough. Yes, I'm sorry. Yes, I acknowledge  
12 that there were certain mistakes that were made.  
13 We are doing an investigation. Folks have a  
14 right to due process.

15 Let me just say this. If we move forward and  
16 do what a lot of people would like to do, which  
17 is me just getting up there and just doing  
18 whatever we believe we need to do without going  
19 through the process that we have, then we would  
20 absolutely jeopardize our ability to enact any  
21 kind of accountability and discipline.

22 We actually removed one individual who is now  
23 suing the district claiming that we did not  
24 remove them properly.

25 Look, it's -- I ran my own business for nine,

1 10 years. I spent half of my career in the  
2 private sector. You know, we wouldn't have this.  
3 But this is public sector. There are rules and  
4 guidelines that are in place that I try to work  
5 through as quickly as I can. There are policies  
6 that are set by the Board which I have to abide  
7 by. And so I'm trying to do that and try to do  
8 things in a way that we, you know, we dot our Is  
9 and cross our Ts to make sure it's done properly,  
10 so that when we come to the public we're able to  
11 properly execute decisions and do the work that  
12 the public would expect us to do in terms of  
13 holding people accountable. So --

14 SPEAKER: That should start with the  
15 superintendent. The accountability starts at the  
16 top and trickles down. I understand due process  
17 and all that.

18 Honestly, I'm hearing statistics and  
19 political talking points. It's not a lot of  
20 answers to the questions that are being asked.  
21 It's a lot of just talking around the subject.

22 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: Ma'am, you were given  
23 questions here. I started out the conversation  
24 today to -- because everyone -- folks say, what  
25 have you done? So I was just being very clear

1 about what we have been doing relative to, you  
2 know, safety, mental health. I know it's not  
3 enough. I've heard concerns. I've heard gaps in  
4 what we're doing. I've heard mistakes that we  
5 made in terms of delivering services. And we are  
6 going to redouble our efforts to fix that and I  
7 apologize to everyone here in this entire  
8 community that we have not delivered on what your  
9 expectation is.

10 But let me just tell you, it hasn't been as  
11 if we haven't been trying, working around the  
12 clock every day that -- this community is our  
13 number one priority. Each and every day we're  
14 working on safety and mental health. We  
15 virtually are almost thinking about nothing else.  
16 And I know that may not seem that way to anyone  
17 in here, but that is -- that is the reality in  
18 which we live each and every day in this  
19 administration. Because it is my focus every day  
20 and it is the staff's focus and it's our School  
21 Board's concern as well.

22 SPEAKER: Thank you.

23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The communication doesn't  
24 hit us, I think, is what we're trying to tell  
25 you.

1 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: I know, the  
2 communication is --

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's one thing on paper,  
4 it's one thing being taught, but the reality is  
5 very different.

6 SUPERINTENDENT RUNCIE: It's been challenging  
7 and difficult and we just need to find a better  
8 way, maybe just do more and more sessions like  
9 this. You know, we'll explore every avenue.  
10 I've asked Ms. Alhadeff to help identify some of  
11 the better ways to communicate. You know, it  
12 varies across communities and the different  
13 communities in Broward County. But we're going  
14 to try to make sure we use every avenue we can to  
15 reach out to this entire community because the  
16 work -- the work doesn't end. As I said earlier,  
17 the trauma does not end. And so we can't take  
18 any time off on this either.

19 MR. CHISEM: Ms. \*\*\*\*\*?

20 SPEAKER: Hi. I'm \*\*\*\*\*. I have a junior  
21 here at Marjory Stoneman Douglas. I also have  
22 been employed by Broward County Public Schools as  
23 a substitute teacher since 2012.

24 I prefer to sub in the Parkland schools for  
25 my own convenience and I specifically prefer to

1 sub here at Stoneman Douglas for my own  
2 convenience.

3 As a sub when I was hired I was never given  
4 any formal training on code reds, active  
5 shooters, et cetera, and I still have not.

6 On 2/14 my daughter was at West Glades and  
7 had a substitute at the time. My daughter asked  
8 her to cover the door, turn off the lights and  
9 tell the sub protocol; what it was and where to  
10 hide. If it were not for myself being emersed in  
11 the tragedy here at the high school I would have  
12 no way of what the procedures were.

13 Yes, the teachers leave directions and the  
14 plans, there are instructions on a pamphlet by  
15 the door and I get my zone that I'm supposed to  
16 evacuate to in an emergency, but I'm actually  
17 lucky in that respect, because the teachers that  
18 I teach for here have lived out an emergency  
19 firsthand, as I have with my child here. So I  
20 know what procedures are and how to perform.

21 But what about the other sub teachers in  
22 Broward County and at the other schools or even  
23 the subs who may not sub in Parkland schools or  
24 sub at Stoneman Douglas so that our kids are safe  
25 and the parents who live here who send their kids

1 to other schools here feel secure?

2 Are you providing any training for the new  
3 subs that are employed after 2/14? And will you  
4 be doing any formal training for substitutes who  
5 are employed before that?

6 DR. WANZA: So to answer your question, yes,  
7 the Office of Talent Acquisition & Operations,  
8 the instructional staff who holds -- or I should  
9 say regularly schedules and conducts the training  
10 for substitute teachers, they have incorporated  
11 emergency protocols training in the processes for  
12 new substitutes. But we certainly do recognize  
13 that we have to go back because there are  
14 thousands of substitutes who may not sub daily,  
15 and so we're going to have to work with our  
16 school principals to really help them because the  
17 subs are in their building and so we have to  
18 establish that orientation. So, yes, it is a  
19 part of the current training as we induct new  
20 substitutes. And we are looking at a number of  
21 options to go back for substitutes like yourself  
22 who have been providing work service to our  
23 community for years. And we certainly recognize  
24 and thank you for your service.

25 SPEAKER: Thank you ma'am.

1 MR. CHISEM: Thank you very much for coming  
2 out this evening. We really appreciate your  
3 joining us.

4 Sir, what I think we will do is I think it's  
5 important up here --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: This is actually pretty  
7 important. I'm standing here with a memo from  
8 2013 from you after the Sandy Hook tragedy.

9 It says, the horrific events at Sandy Hook  
10 School in Newtown, Connecticut has really  
11 affirmed our commitment to student and staff  
12 safety. Toward that end the School Board has  
13 taken additional steps to offer student school  
14 security, requested that municipal and county law  
15 enforcement increase their guns at our schools,  
16 require each school to review its school safety  
17 plan, this review in addition to the annual  
18 review that schools are already required to  
19 perform, initiate a survey of each school site to  
20 determine the needs and costs to provide further  
21 hardening, retrofitting doors and installing  
22 different locks, assign a limited core of school  
23 district police officers to maintain a police  
24 presence in schools that do not have full-time  
25 dedicated school SROs, instructing all of our

1 schools to engage in mock emergency drills and  
2 practice lockdowns, institute additional training  
3 for our school security specialists and campus  
4 security monitors.

5 Now, come on, man. That's from 2013.

6 What happened? Why did our shooting happen  
7 if you would have taken care of these things that  
8 you wrote in a memo?

9 You wrote it.

10 This would never have happened here.

11 That's why we're asking for your resignation  
12 and we deserve it.

13 MR. CHISEM: As I was saying earlier, I  
14 really appreciate you all coming out this  
15 evening. We definitely want to hear from you  
16 all. If there are additional questions that came  
17 up, we ask that you provide them at e-mail  
18 address [safety@browardschools.com](mailto:safety@browardschools.com).

19 Once again, we want to thank you for coming  
20 out this evening and we ask that you drive very  
21 safely.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: So we'll be back in 2023  
23 after the next shooting and you can have the same  
24 bullshit.

25 (Meeting was concluded at 8:35 p.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF BROWARD

I, Timothy R. Bass, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, hereby certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings, and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes thereof.

Dated this 4th day of March, 2019, Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida.



TIMOTHY R. BASS  
Court Reporter