



## THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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August 3, 2018

Dear Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Families and Community:

As we approach the new school year, we are faced with a new level of healing. Returning to Marjory Stoneman Douglas (MSD) High School will be difficult for everyone, most especially for students, faculty and staff. Our hope is that we can all continue to find ways to come together, as the District works to make our school environment safer and stronger.

While there remains much work ahead, below we have provided an overview what the District has accomplished over the summer. Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) continues to work with employees, parents and community partners to fortify the MSD campus and expand safety protocols for 2018/19 school year and beyond. The following is an update on safety and security actions, specific to MSD, that have been taken as we prepare to welcome students, staff and families for the start of the 2018/19 school year.

### **Installation of Portables**

Knowing that the 1200 building will no longer be available, the District approved a contract, two months ago, for the placement of 34 modular units (portables) on the campus of MSD. These portables will provide additional educational space on the campus - including classrooms and dedicated areas for student counseling services.

We have expedited the installation of the 34 portables in preparation for the new school year. At the time of this update, all 34 portables have been delivered, placed on campus; electrical power has been provided to the units; the installation of access ramps is nearly complete; furniture & fixtures are being placed in the portables; the intercom, technology, and security systems are being integrated into the portables; and final inspections are anticipated to be completed next week. The goal remains to have all 34 portables available for use on the first day of the new school year.

The portables will remain a necessity while the District advances the construction of a permanent replacement building for the 1200 Building. The School Board recently approved the contract for architects to design the new building.

### **Main Office (Single Point of Entry)**

A video intercom system with electronic door release (buzzer) has been installed at the visitor entrance door to the main office, which serves as the single point of entry during the school day. This will ensure the door remains locked at all times, and staff has the ability to interact with visitors through the video intercom system before allowing entrance into the building.

### **Controlled Access Card Readers**

Controlled access card (RFID) readers have been installed at the primary entry points for staff. This will require staff members to "swipe" their identification badges to gain access into the main administration

building. Securing the primary access points for staff into the building ensures these entrance points can remain locked at all times and prevent unauthorized access on campus through the main building.

### **Surveillance Video Camera System**

In a previous update provided to the Eagle community, we mentioned that we would be completing the upgrade of the surveillance video camera systems across the entire District by June 30, 2018. This Phase I project was in fact completed on schedule and every school, including MSD, is now on a standard digital platform with enhanced functionality.

Thanks to the generosity of community partners, additional cameras have been donated to MSD and the other Parkland schools. These cameras have enhanced capabilities to provide improved surveillance throughout our school. The installation of additional cameras has started, and we anticipate the work will be completed for the start of the new school year.

The School Board approved Phase II of the surveillance video camera system project at its July 24, 2018 meeting. This \$6.2 million investment will further increase security surveillance at schools throughout Broward County.

Finally, a dedicated security person has been hired to monitor the camera system at MSD throughout the school day. This individual's sole responsibility will be to monitor the camera system and alert appropriate individuals of suspicious activity.

### **Metal Detectors**

The District has communicated its intent to conduct a pilot or trial use of metal detectors at MSD, at the start of the school year. As we continue our due diligence to implement the program - consulting with vendors and experts and reviewing turnkey solutions - many issues have been raised that require the District to pause and have a more thoughtful discussion on policy and procedural aspects of this pilot.

These considerations include the need for additional infrastructure and equipment, privacy concerns, the impact to start times from processing a large student population through entry point metal detection, staffing models required to support the project, and the vendors and experts identifying limitations associated with metal detection.

On August 14, 2018, the District will have a workshop with the independent security firm retained to conduct risk assessments of all schools and review the District's policies, training, and security staffing models, to provide recommendations for security enhancement. The District will look to leverage the expertise of this independent third party to provide guidance on the pilot program.

At this time, we remain focused on working through the issues that have been raised and look forward to an informed conversation on August 14<sup>th</sup> to guide our work going forward.

### **1200 Building Fencing**

A new, permanent 12-foot fence was installed around the 1200 Building. The State Attorney's Office continues to require the building remain secured for evidentiary purposes. The new fence is required, recognizing it is hurricane season and the previous fence was damaged in a storm. Staff will be reinstalling the banners and signs on the permanent fence.

### **Additional Fencing and Gates**

The District is installing additional fencing and gates to establish a secondary perimeter. This additional fencing will serve to limit campus access to three entrances, once inside the perimeter fence. Additionally, the District has enhanced its security procedures for perimeter gates. All perimeter gates are to remain closed and secured once the school day begins. Beginning this year, all perimeter gates will be staffed any

time they are open. This includes at the time of student and staff arrival, dismissal, and when allowing visitors on campus during the school day.

### **Classroom Door Hardware**

All classroom door locking hardware throughout the school has been replaced. The new locks will ensure the doors remain locked at all times. Classroom doors will always be locked from the outside, while maintaining the ability for students and teachers to safely exit their rooms. This eliminates any need for teachers to ever leave their classroom in order to lock the door.

### **Intercom System**

The school's intercom system has been upgraded in connection with the portable project. The new system works with the school's digital telecommunications system and allows all authorized staff to use it from any of the phones or other electronic devices on campus. This includes the ability to initiate pre-recorded messaging to facilitate emergency code lockdowns remotely on campus.

### **Exterior Painting**

On June 26, 2018 the School Board approved a donation agreement with South Florida Stucco and Exteriors, LLC, and Sherwin Williams for the exterior painting of MSD. Pressure cleaning and the painting of the school has begun and will be completed by the start of the school year. Although the project will take three to four months to complete, the high-traffic interior portions of the school are being prioritized, so the painting can continue outside when students are in session.

### **Security Staff**

MSD has increased its security presence on campus for the 2018/19 school year to 15 security staff. The security team now comprises 12 campus monitors and three security specialists. The City of Parkland and the Broward Sheriff's Office will also be providing three School Resource Officers (SROs) for the new school year at MSD. The City of Parkland is hosting a *Night Out* on August 8, 2018 for families and students to come and meet their SROs. *Parkland Night Out* will be held at the Parkland Recreation and Enrichment Center between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM. For more information, visit the City of Parkland's website at: <http://www.cityofparkland.org/1199/Parkland-Night-Out>

### **Guidance Counselors**

Two additional guidance counselors have been added for the 2018/19 school year. These counselors will provide additional support for the MSD students.

We will provide a separate information update on the extent of the counseling and trauma support services we are continuing to provide to our students, staff, families and community.

### **Independent Security Risk Assessment**

The first phase of the security risk assessment, conducted by Safe Havens (an independent security firm), has been completed. Safe Havens is presenting its preliminary recommendations to the School Board at its August 14, 2018 Workshop. The District will utilize these recommendation to initiate additional security enhancements at MSD and systemically to all schools throughout the District.

In addition, the District recently submitted its own individual school risk assessments utilizing the Department of Education's (DOE) Florida Safe School Assessment Tool (FSSAT). This work was completed for each public school and submitted to the DOE on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The District will now focus its attention on utilizing the results of the FSSAT, and the recommendations provided by Safe Havens, to develop its grant submission to the state for funds to implement even more security improvements to our schools. In association with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, the Florida legislature allocated \$98 million to develop a grant program to award school districts competitive funding for physical security enhancements. In accordance with new legislation, the grant applications are to be submitted to the DOE at the end of this calendar year for potential awards in January 2019. The District is awaiting further guidance from the DOE outlining the specific process for grant submittal.

As a reminder, all safety protocols for routine school operations will be reinforced every day. This includes requiring visitors to sign-in at the front office and wear identification badges while on campus at all times, as well as requiring students and staff to wear identification badges at all times. Clear backpacks are not mandated for the 2018/19 school year.

The District will continue to collaborate with the MSD community regarding security enhancements and safety procedures. We will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Runcie  
Superintendent  
Broward County Public Schools