

SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Details

Date: August 29, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: In person and virtually via Microsoft Teams – Pursuant to [IC 5-14-1.5-3.6](#)

Member Attendance

Name	Present		Means of Participation
	Yes	No	
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Eric Bowlen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Means (MS Teams)
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person

Notes

Additional information may be available at the [DHS Boards and Commissions Page](#).

Designee for Secretary of Education: Stephen Balko

Designee for Attorney General: Philip Gordon

Vacancies: Local Law Enforcement Officer

- Call to Order:** At 2:00 p.m. Chairman Thacker called the August 29, 2023, meeting of the Secured School Safety Board to order. Some members attended the meeting electronically by videoconference and teleconference call through Microsoft Teams, pursuant to the requirements of [Indiana Code § 5-14-1.5-3.6](#).
- Roll Call and Quorum:** A roll call was conducted to determine member attendance. The results are included above.
- Review and Action on May 2023 Meeting Minutes:** The Board reviewed the Meeting Minutes, as posted in the meeting materials, and requested no corrections. The Board **approved** the minutes with corrections, by a vote of 6-0.

Motion: Approve the minutes with corrections.

Name	Vote	
	Yes	No
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Bowlen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. **Update on Request for an Advance from the Common School Fund** – Student requested an advance to pay off student loans. Griffith schools withdrew request. Richmond schools submitted a request but did not supply enough information for a final determination.
5. **SRO Reporting and Board Reports Discussion** – Legislature made additions to SRO reporting. Rusty Goodpaster and other staff worked to develop new set of questions related to legislation regarding number of SROs and amount/nature of funding. Once the new form is completed it will be sent to schools to report new required information. Board must make a report to Governor’s Office by November 1 on school safety and grants. Submissions from schools must be done by October 1.
6. **Secured School Safety Grant Funding Recommendations** – Board reviewed recommendations supplied by IDHS Grants Staff. There were 474 applications consisting of 605 projects with \$29.8M recommended for approval. All Priority 1 and Priority 2 requests funded save for 44 partially funded. Superintendent Carter expressed concerns that some SROs requesting funding are not to carry firearms and requests that motion includes stipulation that funding for SROs be for those that are required to carry firearms. Carter made motion, McDonald seconded for purposes of conversation and asked whether there was anything definitional that required SROs to carry firearms. Gordon notes that SROs are assumed to be armed but Code does not require carrying a firearm.

FY2024 SSSG Grant Data - Funding Breakdown by Budget Category			
Budget Category	Number of projects	PR 1 and 2 total eligible	Notes
SRO/LEO	302	\$19,425,611.83	
Site Vulnerability Assessment	7	\$20,962.82	
Equipment Technology Hardware Materials	218	\$8,325,667.02	
Training Expenditures	21	\$160,820.29	
Firearms Training for Teachers	7	\$101,979.00	
SPSSP	31	\$1,150,253.41	
AEWS (no match required)	6	\$100,737.50	
Bullying Prevention	2	\$17,000.00	
Design & Construction	11	\$521,771.80	
Post School Shooting Counseling Services	0	\$0.00	
Totals:	605	\$29,824,803.67	

Name	Vote		Notes
	Yes	No	
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eric Bowlen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstains from Martinsville.
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

7. **Final Comments/Closing Remarks** – Chairman concluded the meeting with the following notes:

8. **Next Meeting** – No specific date was set for the next meeting, though the next meeting was noted for October.

A public notice with specific details regarding the format of the meeting will be provided on the [DHS Boards and Commissions Page](#) in advance of the meeting date.

9. **Adjournment** – Chairman Thacker adjourned the meeting at 2:27pm.