



MEDIA RELEASE

Donation of Metal Detectors to Santa Fe ISD by Lt.

Governor

July 2, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Above all else, the safety of our students and staff is Santa Fe ISD'S highest priority. On July 2, the Santa Fe Independent School District learned that Lt. Governor Dan Patrick announced he will donate up to 10 metal detectors to Santa Fe ISD to assist in updating the security of the entry ways to Santa Fe schools before classes begin in August, pending board approval. Santa Fe ISD thanks the Lieutenant Governor for his generous offer to make this donation.

The Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Committee, at both their June 19 and June 25 meetings, has been researching and discussing life safety issues and safety and security priorities for implementation for the 2018-19 school year. One of the safety and security priorities discussed at both meetings is the installation of metal detectors at the junior high school and high school before school starts in August to limit access into the buildings. The installation of metal detectors will require an assessment of the schools to determine the equipment and training recommended to operate metal detectors.

If metal detectors are determined as a top priority for Santa Fe ISD, a company has volunteered to provide an assessment of Santa Fe High School to determine the equipment and training recommended to operate metal detectors at no cost to the District. The company will also provide a donation to Santa Fe ISD. The metal detectors could be installed and operational by the start of school in August. For additional information about the priorities being discussed by the Santa Fe Strong Safety and Security Committee meetings, go to: santafeupdates.com/santa-fe-strong-safety-and-security-committee

Following committee meetings and as the recommendations come forward to the Board for consideration and possible approval, Santa Fe ISD will continue to engage the community as part of the planning process.

The Safety and Security Committee's next meeting is scheduled for July 12, at which time they will review and finalize recommendations and determine immediate objectives regarding Hardening of Schools and Policy Changes for the start of school in August. These recommendations will be presented to the SFISD Board of Trustees for final approval.

On July 12, the committee will also discuss Mental Health and Support Services. After that, the committee will continue to address the remaining priority issues and concerns.

Santa Fe ISD is working with District stakeholders to develop meaningful and action-based recommendations to keep students safe within our schools, district and the community. There is not one plan that fits all schools, so this 32-member committee comprised of parents representing elementary through high school, community members, SFISD police officers, Galveston County officers, Department of Public Safety officers, members from Gulf Coast Center and the Galveston County Emergency Management Office, a member of the Ministerial Alliance, district administrators, a district counselor, two SFISD School Board members, and SFISD staff members, are charged with focusing on and recommending safety measures that are best for Santa Fe ISD students, staff and the community. The District will continue to engage the community in the planning process to improve the safety and security plans for our schools for the start of school in August, as well as addressing mental health and support services and the remaining priority issues.

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