

Banquete Independent School District

Dr. Max Thompson, Superintendent

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May 18, 2018

An Open Letter from Superintendent Dr. Max Thompson

We are all saddened about the recent school tragedy that unfolded at Santa Fe ISD. Along with similar catastrophes throughout the country, these incidents leave us saddened and, at the same time, concerned for our own community.

In Banquete ISD, we want our campuses to be welcoming, but we cannot compromise safety and security. We have systems in place to handle these situations, and we are continuously looking for ways to improve them. I would like to update you about the measures we have in place and about our plans to expand on those efforts in the future with respect to school safety.

Recently BISD has made great strides in improving safety and security at our campuses:

- Review of BISD emergency procedures and drills happen on a continual basis.
- We have installed additional security cameras at our campuses.
- Most doors are locked such that all traffic comes in through front entrance doors.
- The BISD Board of Trustees is currently reviewing facility safety designs.
- Every BISD campus will be equipped by August 2018 with the Raptor Identification System. This system provides staff the ability to scan a driver's license or other form of ID to run a person's information through various databases. This is one more way that we are monitoring and managing entrances to our buildings.
- We are underway with an initiative to ensure that classroom doors are able to be locked from inside.
- We have also updated school employees training:
 - Specifically, all BISD administrators, counselors, along with teacher, parent, and board representatives, will attend the Texas State School Safety Conference in June 2018. This multi-day conference will provide detailed safety training specified for schools. BISD attendees will bring back key training points to the district and provide in-district training.
 - Additionally, all BISD employees will attend a full-day training prior to the start of classes for the 2018-19 school year. This training will include Corpus Christi Police Department, Nueces County Sheriff's Department, and Department of Public Safety officers, local Emergency Medical Responders, and the Nueces County Emergency Management Executive Director.

The most powerful tool in our effort to improve school safety is what we do as a caring community family. We want to increase the level of conversation with our children and with other members of our community. Please know that BISD administration, staff, and Board of Trustees will continue to hold student safety as our highest priority.

Thank you,

Dr. Max Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

