

Excellence Team
December 6, 2016

1. Speakers on various topics. There was discussion on how we can include presenters on different topics to share ideas with the students, focusing on many different topics: (holocaust, drugs& alcohol). Student shared a concern about already knowing that bullying is bad but the possibility of looking into a speaker to help students understand what bullying is. A parent shared information about having a speaker defending Civil Rights for all people. There is a school initiative of "No Place for Hate." There are a variety of programs and trainings available. Mrs. Taylor mentioned that she is pursuing a peer leadership program through the funding of Rye Act Coalition. About a dozen students received training in peer leadership last week. Many people agreed that this was an ideal time to focus on these ideas. There was discussion of the various programs we have in place and the potential to move forward. A student mentioned the possible use of NHS as a resource for supporting peer mentoring as well.

2. A student discussed that Twitter is blocked even though it is currently used by students for news. CNN is also blocked. The Committee discussed the fact that everything was closed initially for security, but sites are open as they are vetted. Mrs. Taylor recommended that faculty representing student interests send a request to the Director of Technology for approval. Mrs. Taylor will look into Twitter as a possible resource.

3. Mrs. Taylor discussed the evacuation due to the bomb threat. Students expressed some concerns about equity, and Mrs. Taylor noted that she did make an announcement to leave backpacks to make sure it was consistent. Yesterday, there was a meeting with faculty members where "lessons learned" were shared. Those same ideas will be shared with students today in each of their classes. One focus was the necessity to follow assigned routes and the protocols to be followed. It was noted that leaving backpacks increases the time to officially ensure the building is clear because each bag is checked, but the decision was made to leave the bags to ensure safety. Students are required to stay with their assigned teachers. Cards will be turned in by each teacher (red and green cards) so each student will be accounted for. The schedule essentially freezes. The period to which students were assigned at the start of the evacuation remains in place until all students have returned to the building and attendance has been taken again. Moving forward, an area for unassigned students will be designated. Each administrator has an assigned location during evacuations. It was noted that Emergency Services serves as advisory for the Incident Commander (Mrs. Taylor). Deliveries during evacuations are not permitted. An active investigation of the incident has and continues to take place.