

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

EDUCATION
Senator Diaz, Chair
Senator Montford, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, January 22, 2019
TIME: 2:30—4:00 p.m.
PLACE: *Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building*

MEMBERS: Senator Diaz, Chair; Senator Montford, Vice Chair; Senators Baxley, Berman, Cruz, Perry, Simmons, and Stargel

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation on the Recommendations from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission Initial Report		Presented

Other Related Meeting Documents

MSDPSC

- SB7026 created the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Commission.
- The Commission's statutory mandate is to investigate and make recommendations regarding the February 14, 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

MSDPSC

- The Commission is comprised of 16 voting and 4 non-voting members.
- Members were appointed to the Commission by the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, or their positions were established by law.
- Commission members come from multi-disciplinary backgrounds.

MSDPSC

- The Commission met 7 times, for multiple days each time, between April and December 2018 and heard presentations and testimony from numerous witnesses. Commission investigators interviewed hundreds of people and reviewed a massive amount of evidence.
- The Commission submitted its initial report on January 2, 2019 and will continue its work in 2019 and beyond. The Commission does not sunset until 2023.

MSDPSC

- The initial report is 482 pages and contains the facts about what occurred leading up to and at MSDHS.
- The fact sections of the report resulted in findings by the Commission and the findings resulted in recommendations.
- Some of the recommendations will require action by the legislature to become effective.

MSDPSC

- SB7026 contains many good provisions and is a great start to improving school safety.
- However, school safety in Florida needs to be better than it is today.
- School districts must fully comply with the law—there must be accountability and there should be consequences for non-compliance.
- DOE lacks oversight authority and in many areas it is a repository for information without any ability to ensure the law is followed.

MSDPSC

- While preventing another school shooting is the goal, the reality is prevention cannot be assured.
- Because we can never be assured that another incident will not occur, harm mitigation should be our first priority.

MSDPSC

- After ensuring the best **harm mitigation** measures are in place, we should then focus on implementing more sophisticated, and costly **prevention** measures.
- We should fully implement all current requirements before imposing new requirements or spending “new” money on more requirements.

MSDPSC

- Harm mitigation can be divided into three basic concepts:
 - Identify the Threat
 - Communicate the Threat
 - React to the Threat
- All Florida schools should be immediately required to:
 - Comply With the Requirement to Conduct Drills
 - Have Written Active Assailant Response Procedures
 - Keep all Gates and Doors Locked or Staffed
 - Have An Effective Communication System
 - Identify “hard corners” or “safe areas” in every classroom

MSDPSC

- These harm mitigation recommendations will make a difference and are an opportunity to immediately enhance school safety.
- The recommendations cost little or nothing to implement, but they require decision-makers, or the legislature to mandate them and require compliance.

MSDPSC

- As these basic harm mitigation strategies are implemented, the State and the districts should be considering broader, and costly, prevention strategies.
- The Commission recommends a tiered approach to physical site security enhancements. The report contains some preliminary recommendations within various tiers.

MSDPSC

- To accomplish this, the Commission recommends that the Office of Safe Schools empanel a group of stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop specific site hardening recommendations by August 2019 and those recommendations form the basis for schools' plans to phase-in enhanced security, as well as future funding decisions.

MSDPSC

- Consider creating a permanent body such as the Connecticut School Safety Infrastructure Council to oversee physical site security of schools.
- The Connecticut legislature created this Council of subject matter experts to oversee school security infrastructure, provide consistency and ensure compliance with best practices.

MSDPSC

- The report contains numerous recommendations but there are several that would require legislative action and they are:
- Mandate compliance by Florida school districts for immediately implementing target hardening harm mitigation strategies, and
- Establish consequences and significant sanctions for non-compliance; including financial sanctions and removal from office.

MSDPSC

- Provide DOE the authority to develop a standardized, statewide behavioral threat assessment instrument and create a statewide threat assessment database that is accessible to all districts and appropriate stakeholders.
- Florida should consider the model used by State of Virginia, which is widely recognized as the leader in school-based behavioral threat assessment.
- DOE should be provided oversight authority for the threat assessment process.

MSDPSC

- Require that the FSSAT be the primary instrument used by the school districts to assess physical site security.
- Provide DOE with compliance authority over the districts to ensure that each school, and each district as applicable, submits an annual FSSAT.
- DOE should be tasked with, and funded for, providing each district with training on how to assess physical site security and how to properly complete the FSSAT.

MSDPSC

- Provide statutory sanctions for non-compliance with the annual FSSAT submission requirement.
- Require that the school specific FSSAT be approved by the superintendent or his/her designee before submission to DOE.

MSDPSC

- Provide DOE with SESIR oversight authority
- Authorize DOE to impose sanctions on districts that do not accurately report required data.
- DOE should be provided inspection authority of districts' records and be required to conduct audits to ensure compliance.

MSDPSC

Require any student referred for developmental delay and/or behavioral issue testing and screening be tested within 45 days of the referral, and that the student be provided a referral for resources and/or services within 30 days of the testing/screening if needed.

Consider changes to Florida school privacy laws that are not preempted by federal law to better allow information sharing in appropriate circumstances, and to encourage changes to federal law.

MSDPSC

- Expand the Guardian program to allow teachers who volunteer, in addition to those now authorized, who are properly selected, thoroughly screened and extensively trained to carry concealed firearms on campuses for self-protection, and the protection of other staff and students in response to an active assailant incident.
- Amend Section 30.15(1)(k), FS, to state that upon majority vote of the School Board the sheriff shall establish a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises.

MSDPSC

- Increase safe schools allocation for school resource officers and/or guardians,
- Provide adequate recurring funding for the Guardian program and the legislature should consider increased funding for individuals who are hired solely to fill the role of Guardian;
- Allow for the use of school safety funding between different categories based on need.

MSDPSC

- Amend current version of SB7026 to allow for safe schools allocation to be used for new or existing school resource officers (current law only permits the funds to be used for existing SROs and not new officers/deputies).
- Restore local authority to public school boards to levy up to a half mil without a referendum for law enforcement officers or Guardians, or other direct school security expenses.

MSDPSC

Questions?

22



THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date _____

Topic KEITH FLAD - Stone in Doyle Bill Number (if applicable) _____

Name _____ Amendment Barcode (if applicable) _____

Job Title MANAGY DIR FICA

Address _____ Phone _____

Street _____

City NAPLES State FL Zip _____ Email _____

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing _____

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1-22-19

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic MSD Public Safety Commission

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Kate Kile

Job Title Volunteer / Moms Demand Action

Address 1564 Lee Ave

Phone (850) 284-5511

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32303

City

State

Zip

Email K&Kile@yahoo.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against (The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

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1/22/19

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic MSD Public Safety Commission

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Shannon Guse

Job Title Director of Christian Education

Address 2020 Doomar Dr.

Phone 850-694-2685

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32308

City

State

Zip

Email: shannon.guse@gmail.com

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Moms Demand Action

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

1/22/19

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic MSD Public Safety Commission

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Natalie Fundora

Job Title Student / Legislative Director of SDA

Address 2110 Ridgeway Dr

Phone (786) 899-8026

Tallahassee FL 32303

City

State

Zip

Email nmf17@my.fsu.edu

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Students Demand Action (FSU chapter)

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

1-22-19

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic PARKLAND GUN RECS

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name RAY BELAMY

Job Title RETIRED PHYSICIAN

Address 509 VENNANCE RIDE

Phone 850-668-7967

Street

TALLAHASSEE FL 32303

City

State

Zip

Email RAY.BELAMY@MED.FSU.EDU

Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing MOMS DEMAND ACTION

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KN 412

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Committee on Education

Judge:

Started: 1/22/2019 2:31:39 PM

Ends: 1/22/2019 3:59:55 PM

Length: 01:28:17

2:31:49 PM Meeting called to order
2:31:57 PM Roll call by Angela
2:32:09 PM Quorum is present
2:32:55 PM Chair Diaz remarks regarding SB 7026 and introduces Sheriff Bob Gualtieri of Pinellas County; serves on Board of Directors for Florida Sherriff Association, Major County Sheriff's Association, and Boys and Girls Club of Sunset.
2:34:27 PM Sheriff Gualtieri gives presentation and interprets the recommendation of the commission findings.
2:36:11 PM *Commission met seven times, report submitted after eight months.
2:36:48 PM *Report details out the facts, the findings and conclusions for commission's recommendations
2:37:18 PM *Legislature was presented with utmost task to meet needs after February 14, 2018 shooting.
2:38:05 PM *Even though there are 180 pages of the report, the conclusions are not complete- Sheriff Gualtieri stated, "We are not there yet"
2:39:03 PM Commission Chair Gualtieri recommendation to the legislature is to ensure what plan is in place-- has been implemented-- before accepting money requests
2:39:37 PM *Focus on legislation in SB 7026.
2:41:52 PM *Know where the strengths and weakness in the districts; before spending more money.
2:43:01 PM *There has to be accountability...
2:43:12 PM *There should be requirements for each district to submit
2:43:43 PM *Schools must fully comply...
2:45:25 PM * Right now the compliance is not there...
2:46:00 PM DOE should be given sanction authority over the requirements...
2:46:27 PM *this is going to happen again; it's just a question of when and where... what have we done different in the past year to prevent...
2:47:01 PM *Identify the threat...
2:47:12 PM *appropriately react...
2:47:57 PM Feb 14 2018 –Nicholas Cruz walked into the school through an open pedestrian gate...
2:48:50 PM * No policy is in place to prevent it...
2:49:15 PM *No written guidelines....
2:50:32 PM *...no speakers were in the common areas to communicate there was a threat...
2:51:08 PM *No infrastructure...
2:51:26 PM *Need -Active assailant protocol...
2:52:03 PM *React to a threat...
2:52:32 PM *The safest place was locked doors and to be out of sight...
2:52:54 PM *...safe zones were filled with bookcases and teachers desk...
2:53:13 PM *...Students had no place to hide and be out of sight...
2:54:50 PM *Next month- 1 year - what have we done differently...
2:55:10 PM *I urge you to require...
2:55:25 PM *Standardized...
2:55:38 PM *Proactive reactions - flowing with communication...
2:55:48 PM *Sept 28 -Nicholas Cruz...
2:56:10 PM *First time in 30 years the principal had to use the incident forms, could not find them...
2:56:54 PM *School Principal...
2:57:32 PM *...Should be able to expect your administrators to comply....
2:58:27 PM *Camera systems...
2:58:41 PM *1 year response...
2:59:36 PM Recommend creating an Active Group Commission...
2:59:59 PM *There is no set indicator to know there will be a repeating type of event...
3:00:24 PM *History will help inform us...
3:01:39 PM *Insiders often have been the assailants...
3:02:13 PM *Majority of events could have been or have been stopped by
3:02:44 PM *Chris...
3:03:41 PM *SRO Peterson... did not intervene....
3:05:01 PM *Suggest...

3:05:21 PM *Guardian Program...

3:06:34 PM In some districts the School Board's want the guardian program, but sheriff discourages against it...

3:07:05 PM *this has to be dealt with... what we can live with....

3:07:28 PM *Based upon... reality

3:07:44 PM *1500 openings for hire - but insufficient applicants to fill positions...

3:08:24 PM *we don't have enough cops...

3:08:53 PM *One person on one campus is not enough... one person can't be everywhere at one time...

3:09:20 PM *Weapon retention training...

3:11:29 PM Chair Diaz - are there any questions from the members?

3:11:48 PM Senator Cruz recognized with question to sheriff

3:12:13 PM Sheriff Responds

3:14:06 PM Sheriff Responds

3:14:13 PM *Sheriff recommends to fund the guardian program...

3:15:12 PM Senator Cruz with question

3:16:11 PM Sherriff responds

3:18:33 PM Vice-Chair Montford recognized with question to Sheriff Gualtieri

3:19:05 PM Sheriff Responds

3:21:56 PM Senator Montford with further question

3:22:09 PM Sheriff Responds

3:23:27 PM Senator Montford further discussion

3:23:36 PM Sheriff Responds

3:23:45 PM Senator Montford with question and comments

3:23:56 PM Sheriff Responds

3:24:55 PM Senator Montford continues with questions

3:25:22 PM Sheriff Responds

3:26:21 PM Senator Montford with question

3:26:23 PM Sheriff Responds

3:27:04 PM Senator Montford with question and discussion

3:27:14 PM Chair Diaz recognizes as Vice-chair Montford thanks Sherriff

3:27:37 PM Chair Diaz recognizes Senator Baxley for questions to Sheriff Gualtieri

3:27:51 PM Senator Baxley thanks Sheriff Gualtieri

3:30:45 PM Senator Baxley with question

3:31:16 PM Sherriff Responds

3:34:47 PM Senator Stargel recognized to question the Sheriff

3:35:25 PM Sheriff Responds

3:36:25 PM Senator Stargel recognized for series of questions to the Sheriff

3:36:42 PM Sheriff Response

3:38:00 PM Senator Stargel

3:38:05 PM Sheriff Responds

3:38:58 PM Senator Stargel with questions

3:39:14 PM Sheriff Response

3:40:24 PM Senator Stargel with further questions

3:40:44 PM Sheriff Responds

3:43:19 PM Senator Stargel with question

3:43:36 PM Sheriff Response

3:45:38 PM Senator Perry recognized with question to Sheriff

3:45:43 PM Sheriff Responds

3:46:47 PM Senator Perry with discussion and question

3:46:56 PM Sheriff Response

3:47:47 PM Senator Perry comments

3:49:11 PM Senator Berman recognized to comment and question Sheriff

3:50:00 PM Sheriff Responds

3:50:57 PM Senator Berman with question

3:51:40 PM Sheriff Response

3:52:56 PM Chair Diaz opens floor for public response - each person one minute each

3:53:54 PM Keith Flah, Managing Director of Florida Employee and Citizens Alliance (FECA), Naples Florida

3:54:30 PM Kate Kile, Volunteer for Moms Demand Action, Tallahassee, FL

3:55:57 PM Shannon Guse - Director of Christian Education; representing Moms Demand Action of Tallahassee, FL

3:57:02 PM Chair Diaz

3:57:37 PM Natalie Fundora, Student/ Legislative Director of Students Demand Action (SDA) (FSU Chapter)

3:58:38 PM Roy Bellamy, Retired Physician representing Moms Demand Action of Tallahassee, FL

3:59:46 PM Senator Perry moves to adjourn this meeting.