



On May 9, 2023, a Safety Listen Session was hosted by the parish. The event took place at 6:30 PM in the parish hall and was facilitated by Tony Haas MPB's Director of Ministries. There were representatives from the ELC, School, Parish Administrative Staff, Pastoral Council, Finance Council and Fr. Daniel listening to the feedback from the participants. There was a total of 11 participants comprised of ELC and School parents and parishioners.

Tony Haas gave a brief explanation why we were conducting the listening session - There is an existing safety plan in the school and the ELC involving security hardware, policies, and procedures. These are upgraded and practiced and evaluated regularly by staff and outside consultants. With three different entities on the campus and facilities usage running 365 days a year, the overall campus plans become complex and layered and that is why it's important that we conducted this listening session. To hear from you.

The 11 participants were broken into three groups and had 20 minutes to share their ideas with each other. At the end of that time, each group had a spokesperson who shared their group's suggestions with the entire room.

#### **Concerns/Suggestions from Listening Session**

- Physical Safety: Higher fence around campus, armed guard.
- Campus has a wide range of populations. How can we bring everyone at MPB together?
- Emotional/Psychological aspects of feeling safe.
- Being a welcoming community: See something, say something. Make efforts to connect to individuals.
- Security: fence, security guard, trained k-9 to be a presence on campus. Possibly at Mass or would that turn people away?
- Metal detectors
- Budget – parent focused campaigns for safety (i.e. security guard, fence, metal detectors). Just focus on the school if parish isn't comfortable.
- Possibly have a parents' group or dads volunteer to do safety checks during the day.
- Environmental vs Violent Risks. Active Shooter event, people passing through campus. Drug use, urinating, etc. Fence around playground was a good thing. This area, Colorado Blvd, is becoming more unsafe.
- Doors/windows unlocked. Check throughout the day in case a child uses a different entrance.
- Security system in case of break-in
- Security cameras monitored at all times.
- Do an environmental sweep to ensure no available paraphernalia.
- Address cyber security.
- Have the "Guns to Gardens" event more often and promote to schools.
- "Safe to tell"
  - Organization by the Attorney General. Anyone can file an anonymous claim, MPB, Archdiocese and the police all get alerted.
  - App or phone call



## Concerns/Suggestions emailed to the parish office

- Advocate for evidence-based solutions instead of ones that allay fears.
- Secure the front entryways more but also highly reinforce human behavior that does not let unknown individuals in without a code.
- Invest in handling bullies, mental health needs and disgruntled parents or students to decrease the reasons someone would want to cause harm to the school.
- Help parents understand social media, teen brains, how to monitor, when/how to report and to whom would be a great alleviator.
- Ask Denver Police for an officer on duty at our campus similar to what Cherry Hills Village does at two schools in their district.
- Lock the front door of the school and install a video doorbell where the school front office administrator could see who is requesting permission before she buzzes them in
- Zero tolerance for urban camping, drug-use, and/or loitering on campus at any time.
- Work to develop a strong relationship with local police and appropriate agencies.
- Vehicle-proof barriers during recess
- Perimeter security fence, especially along Colorado
- Daily/nightly campus checks
- Armed officer or trusted person with a Concealed Carry License for school mass and large gatherings.

The Safety Team, Finance Council, Fr. Daniel and the AoD Safety Committee **greatly** appreciate the concerns and suggestions made at last week's listening session along with those that have been emailed in. Next steps are a meeting mid-June with AoD Safety Committee then MPB Safety Committee will work throughout the summer evaluating and planning projects with an update announcement late August early September.

