



Talawanda School District Quarterly News

Featuring an update from
Dr. Theroux regarding important
school safety information.



OCTOBER 2018- OXFORD, OHIO 45056

A Message from Dr. Theroux

PARENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as superintendent for this outstanding community and school system. It is my plan to periodically provide you with information about Talawanda Schools and activities. I believe that it takes a community to raise each child into outstanding, respectful, and ongoing learners and citizens. In advance, thank you for your support of the Talawanda School District so that we may achieve this goal of nurturing and developing community citizens who make a positive difference in the world!



Safety in this world is much different than it was thirty years ago. Communities, including school districts, have had to implement new safety strategies and procedures to dealing with safety. It is important for the Talawanda citizens to know that the Talawanda School District considers safety the highest priority and safe schools our most serious goal. This letter will provide you some information about what we are doing to ensure safety.


The TSD Board of Education has approved the hiring of three additional School Resource Officers (SRO's). Each of our five buildings now has a full time SRO. The SRO's are certified and working through the process of their own continual learning in order to improve their own skills. Two of the SRO's are from the City of Oxford and three of the SROs are from the Butler County Sheriff's office. Both Chief John Jones and Sheriff Richard Jones have been outstanding partners with our school district.

The SRO's have developed and nurtured positive relationships with our students and staff. The SRO's are visibly present in each building and work with our administrators, staff, and community to establish safe school environments.



Our school district also has a safety committee that meets on a regular basis. The committee reviews, changes, and adjusts safety plans and protocols as needed. On August 31, 2018, our staff and administrators partnered with our SRO's, police, fire, transportation, McCullough Hyde, and Butler County Educational Service Center (BCESC) to practice a mock bus accident. Student and parent volunteers also participated in the drill. We learned a lot from this drill and plan to repeat this type of activity to increase our response times, procedures, and protocols to ensure student safety. It is worth noting that our safety liaison from BCESC stated that our bus drill accident training went very well!





We also completed a threat assessment at our high school. Working with Homeland Security, BCESC, our police departments, and staff, we were able to identify strengths and needs at our high school. We shared this information with our Board of Education members in Executive Session due to the sensitivity of the information. We needed to ensure the safety information, plans, and changes are kept confidential to ensure safety for our staff and students.

The TSD Board of Education hired three social workers who have been assigned to each of the elementary buildings. We also have staff members assigned at the middle and high school level to assist students and families with mental health needs. It is so important for us as a district, to identify students with needs, and provide those students with supports and resources. Most safety issues that you have seen on television, or read about, are often committed by individuals with mental health needs. Identifying these needs as early as possible and providing resources and supports are critical to ensuring student, staff, building, district, and community safety!



Amy Machecko wrote and received a \$75,000 grant for our district that will be used for the development and implementation of supports and resources for our students. Our elementary staff are being trained in PAX, which is a process designed to teach and reinforce positive expectations. Our administrators and staff are being trained in ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) which will help our staff identify and work with students who need more supports and resources to be successful and overcome trauma. We continue to brainstorm, attend professional development, and look for additional methods to increase our learning and our ability to make Talawanda School District a safe place, to meet the unique needs of each child.



We also continue to meet as a team to work with families, students, and our partners to increase safety and security within the Talawanda School District. Our Board of Education is committed to safety and security. Thank you for this opportunity to provide you information about our amazing school district and community.

IN EDUCATION,

DR. EDWARD THEROUX
TALAWANDA SUPERINTENDENT

