



Bronc Nation News

Hamilton School District #3

Monday, February 19, 2018

Important Dates:

February 20

Special Board Meeting,
5:30 PM at the Daly Den

February 21

Curriculum Committee
Meeting, 12:00 noon at
the District Office

February 28

Buildings and Grounds
Committee Meeting, 12:00
noon at the District Office

March 7

Curriculum Committee
Meeting, 12:00 noon at
the District Office

March 13

Regular School Board
Meeting, 6:30 PM at the
Daly Den

March 14

Buildings and Grounds
Committee Meeting, 12:00
noon at the District Office

March 21

Curriculum Committee
Meeting, 12:00 noon at
the District Office

April 4

Curriculum Committee
Meeting, 12:00 noon at
the District Office

To the Hamilton Community,

I want to reassure you that the Hamilton School District takes safety and security very seriously. As unfortunate events unfold around us, I think it is always helpful to recognize and reinforce proactive measures that are underway in your school district. Below is a list of some of the current measures that are in place to ensure that students have a safe and productive learning environment.

Enhanced Entrance Security: Five years ago, the Hamilton School District improved entryways so that staff would have improved knowledge of who was entering our schools; office windows were remodeled, surveillance cameras were installed, and entry ways are now controlled by electronic doors. This was an important first step toward improving the security of our schools.

Training: In 2015, the Hamilton School District partnered with local law enforcement and *Safariland* to improve our tactical responses to a variety of threats. We currently have four *Safariland* certified trainers on staff that provide an annual training for staff each year. These trainers also provide training to schools throughout the state.

Emergency Procedures: Hamilton is a leader in emergency response procedures. A full-scale emergency drill is held in one of our schools annually. Below is a timeline and procedure that was practiced in each school. These are large-scale events that involve multiple community responders.

- **(2015) Washington:** “broken power line on school property” practiced the procedures for safely exiting students out of the building, transporting them to a different sight, and reunifying them with parents and guardians.
- **(2016) High School:** “school shooting” practiced the procedures for working with local law enforcement and community responders to control the scene and get students to safety. *This drill was conducted with student volunteers during an early out.*
- **(2017) Daly:** “bomb threat” practiced the procedures for managing a bomb threat; safely exiting students out of the building, transporting them to a different sight, and reunifying them with parents and guardians.
- **(2018) Middle School:** “gas leak” will practice the procedures for safely exiting students out of the building, transporting them to a different sight, and reunifying them with parents and guardians.

Background Checks: All District employees and overnight chaperones must pass fingerprint background checks prior to working with students and/or attending overnight trips. All staff must pass an annual driving record background check prior to transporting students. Additionally, the District requires that at least one adult be trained in first aid when taking students on trips out-of-the-district.

The above measures are part of a system-wide approach toward creating safe and productive learning environments. I believe our best support system is the culture of our school and community. Many of us will work through a personal difficulty at some point in our lives and having multiple caring and capable individuals is a necessary attribute of an effective school and community.

We need to stay connected with each other to better recognize issues and provide proactive assistance when it is needed. For a variety of reasons, we sometimes wait too long before asking for help. Please act sooner than one might think is necessary and I encourage all of us to remind our students/children that when we see something we need to say something.

If you would like to know more, have questions, or would like to find out what you can do to help create a safer environment for the students of Hamilton please do not hesitate to call me or one of our outstanding principals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Korst', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Korst, Superintendent