



Mad River Local Schools

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Mad River Board of Education Approves Gun Safes in District School Buildings

"This job of keeping our children safe, and teaching them well, is something we can only do together, with the help of friends and neighbors, the help of a community, and the help of a nation."

— President Barack Obama, December 16, 2012

Ensuring that our schools are sanctuaries for teaching and learning—and safe for the District's school students is a priority for the Mad River Board of Education, and administration.

After months of discussion, investigation and collaboration with law enforcement officials, the Mad River Board of Education approved at its regular July Board of Education meeting to place loaded guns in lock boxes in strategic locations in its eight school buildings. In addition to building security cameras, secured locked entrances, panic buttons and ALICE Training for all staff members, the guns are an additional safety feature to keep our students and staff members safe.

The guns are accessible by trained staff members who are trained to respond to an active shooter situation. Weapons and ammunition are stored in a secret location - biometric boxes that can only be accessed via fingerprint recognition. Only school security officers and first responders who take part in ongoing tactical and firearms training can access the weapons.

The School District examined its options and concluded that measures beyond having armed resource officers in the buildings were needed. The training for teachers and staff who have access to firearms in an emergency includes a 16-hour course developed by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. The district has budgeted \$to pay for the safes and guns. "Unfortunately, in today's society school shootings have become a common occurrence," said Superintendent Chad Wyen. "The Mad River School District is fortunate to have never experienced a school shooting and we want to keep it that way. By equipping our staff with another safety featuring we are making sure that our schools remain a safe place for our students to learn."

Staff members who are selected and approved will undergo comprehensive training that will include instruction on legal issues, weapons care, mental conditioning for the use of deadly force, safe handling and storage of weapons, marksmanship and other training elements.

Mad River becomes one of over 30 estimated Ohio school districts to include in their security plans guns that are locked in safes, ready to be used by trained staff in case an active shooter enters school grounds. Signs will be posted throughout the District warning anyone who enters the building that guns are present.

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