

Eastford Elementary School
School Safety and Security Committee Minutes
Thursday, August 17, 2023
5:00 PM - EES School Library

Present: Carole McCombe (Principal), Terry Cote (BOE), Lori Lincoln (Teacher), Doug Beaudoin (EIFC), Deb Richards (First Selectwoman), Charles Kernan (Assistant to the Principal/Chair)

Call to Order: 5:04 PM

II. Carole McCombe gave an overview of the fire and lockdown drills.

A. Discussion shared that the Eastford Independent Fire Company (EIFC) worked with the school for one of the fire drills and completed a fire safety course for younger Eastford students.

B. Student mental health is a point of emphasis in the latest guidance from SDE.

1. EES will be developing ways to track how we support students who demonstrate the need for further assistance during fire and lockdown drills.

2. Currently, teachers debrief the whole class in the aftermath of these drills to inform them of the need for such practices.

3. Reactions of some students create a need for extra support, such as noise cancelling earphones or a 'head-ups' that this is about to happen.

4. We are also continually working to improve transitions from regular classroom work to a fire or lockdown drill. That transition is also tracked as we go from a drill back to regular day-to-day affairs.

III. Evacuation and Reunification Plan

A. Due to the fire at the Congregational Church of Eastford (CCE) we need to find a new venue for any evacuation and reunification site.

B. Options discussed were:

1. Eastford Town Library
2. Crystal Pond Park
3. Eastford Baptist Church
4. Eastford Town Hall
5. Charlie Brown Campground
6. Union Elementary School

C. Team will explore these options while considering the following:

1. Distance
2. Space/Capacity
3. Parent Pick-Up accessibility
4. Cell Phone Service
5. Heating/AC availability
6. Running Water/Toilets
7. Accessibility - will we need a key to access this venue

D. Team will reconvene by the October Board of Education Meeting

1. Planned meeting for October 12, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment: 5:47 PM