



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(631) 382-2006

February 15, 2023

Dear Smithtown School Community,

The safety and security of the students, faculty, staff, and community members of the Smithtown Central School District has been, and will continue to be, a top priority. While our security enhancements related to staffing, infrastructure, training, and operational protocols have evolved and improved over time, we have come to the stark realization that there is more we can do to better protect the members of this school community. Unfortunately, as we are reminded all too often by the news reports from across the nation, schools have occasionally been viewed as “soft” targets and the scene of senseless tragedies caused by “active shooters.”

With this in mind, and with a heavy heart, our district has made the decision to bolster our security detail by adding armed guards to the exterior perimeter of each of our schools to strengthen our ability to respond during a crisis, as well as to deter those who may seek to do harm. The rationale for this security enhancement is simple: Having armed guards on school grounds will improve our response time in order to better protect our students, faculty, staff, and community members who are in and around our buildings on a daily basis.

The district has begun the process of identifying security firms who have the ability to provide our schools with highly trained armed guards. The guards will be required to undergo multiple training sessions per year and will need to requalify through periodic performance based assessments to ensure they will perform at an optimal level if ever called upon. Once the security firm has been identified, vetted, and approved by our Board of Education, the security detail will be familiarized with our facilities, coordinate efforts with the Suffolk County Police Department and will be deployed throughout our district.

While questions may arise, please understand that we will not be at liberty to comment on specific details such as guard deployments, locations, and working hours as it may compromise their safety and effectiveness. It is also important to note that the addition of these guards will not interfere with the day to day activities and operations of our schools and that they will not be posted within our school buildings.

This decision has not come lightly, but we believe that this is a necessary step to improve our approach to the safety and security of our students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Matthew Gribbin
BOE President

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BOE Vice President

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