

About Southmont

- ▶ Background
 - Southern Montgomery County
 - Crawfordsville
 - Close knit community
 - Well behaved student body
 - Rural, agricultural, Nucor Steel

About Southmont

Schools

Southmont Junior – Senior High School

Ladoga Elementary School

New Market Elementary School

Walnut Elementary School

About Southmont

Crisis History

Tornado

Suicide

Near drowning

Hostile intruders and threats

Montgomery County Crisis Commission

- ▶ Chaired by Crawfordsville Community Schools
- ▶ School Administration, Sheriff's Department, City Police, School Resource Officers, Mayor, Fire Chief, County Commissioner, Emergency Management, Judges, Hospital Administration, American Red Cross, Mental Health Counselors, School Counselors, County Nurse, Wabash College, Ivy Tech
- ▶ Drills, Re-enactments, table top exercises

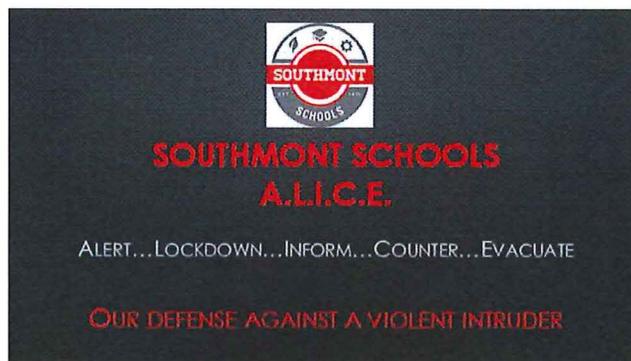
Federal Grant

- ▶ \$100,000 award
- ▶ Led by Crawfordsville Fire Chief Todd Barton, currently Mayor of Crawfordsville
- ▶ Incident Command
- ▶ National Incident Management System training
- ▶ School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan
- ▶ To go kits

Before the electronic threat

- ▶ Corporation Risk Management Plan
- ▶ Corporation feasibility study
- ▶ State review of safety plan

ALICE training



During the threat

- ▶ **From:** Deborah Swain-Bayless [<mailto:dsbayless@doe.in.gov>]
- Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2016 12:52 PM
- To:** Dr. Shawn Greiner; Eric Brewer; Kevin Stewart
- Subject:** School Safety Review Follow-Up
- ▶
- ▶ Thank you for taking the time to meet with me regarding the emergency preparedness plans for South Montgomery Senior High School.
- ▶
- ▶ I have attached a copy of the compliance letter that will be sent to Dr. Greiner indicating full compliance with school safety requirements. Per our conversation, I have also attached additional resources for your consideration.

During the threat

- ▶ **From:** Ryan Stewart [<mailto:rstewart@doe.in.gov>]
- Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2016 3:40 PM
- Subject:** School Safety January 2016
- ▶
- ▶ School Safety Specialists,
- ▶
- ▶ Our thoughts go out to the family of Susan Jordan and the staff/students at Amy Beverland Elementary School in the wake of the tragic bus accident this week. Though initial reports suggest this was driver error, let this be a reminder to all of us that accidents can and will happen in our schools. Please be aware that these types of accidents are extremely rare. Thanks to the diligence of our school administrators and bus drivers, bus stops and loading zones remain very safe. However, in our efforts to continually improve safety procedures for our students, here are a few points to consider:
- ▶
- ▶ Take this time to remind bus drivers, community members, staff and students to operate with increased care and awareness. Please be considerate of pedestrians, student drivers, and the general school zone.
- ▶
- ▶ Review your parking lots and arrival/dismissal procedures with your safety team and local authorities.
- ▶
- ▶ A well placed vehicle bollard or barrier could be utilized in certain situations to increase safety (as seen below). Layout of your school, need for such barriers, and snow removal procedures should be considered prior to installation. Consideration for such barriers should be part of a comprehensive assessment for the safety needs of your school. Use of secured school safety funds for such barriers will be discussed at future secured safety meetings, and these could also be paid through capital improvement funds.
- ▶

Initial threat – January 29, 2016

- ▶ Email sent high school counselor at 11:05 a.m.
- ▶ **“Your school’s website will continue to have problems. Also I suggest evacuating your school, we have a special surprise placed inside of Southmont. (Hint: Boom Boom)”**

Critical Elements of Email

- ▶ Counselor
- ▶ School website
- ▶ Evacuation
- ▶ Special surprise inside Southmont
- ▶ Southmont
- ▶ Boom Boom

Phase One

- ▶ Email forward to Director of Technology
- ▶ Building administration notified
- ▶ School resource officer notified,
Montgomery County Sheriff notified
- ▶ Administration met with law enforcement
- ▶ Barred newspaper editor on school
property

Phase Two

- ▶ Joint decision to bring canine units from Lafayette
- ▶ Law enforcement swept the auditorium
- ▶ Students gathered in cafeteria
- ▶ Students moved to the auditorium
- ▶ Parent pickup executed as requested
- ▶ Newspaper media isolated and shared information
- ▶ Canine units arrive at 2:00 and sweep entire building
- ▶ Building cleared by 2:45
- ▶ Typical dismissal at 3:00 with no events
- ▶ Proceeded with varsity basketball game, all clear

Media Release

▶ **A joint statement from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Southmont School Corporation**

A threatening message directed at Southmont High School was received by a staff member this afternoon. Local law enforcement has determined this threat does not compromise the safety of students or staff. School will start on time on Monday morning and we have already begun collaborating with local agencies and will continue our school day with a heightened level of security.

We are confident that our community can come together to support the investigative efforts without giving credence to these threats. If you have any information about this situation, please call the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office: (765) 362-3740 (Detective Travis King) or Southmont School Corporation at (765) 866-0203 (Mr. Eric Brewer).

Social Media Activity

- ▶ Indiana State Police Cyber Experts assist
- ▶ Suspect's Twitter Account (@Websitecrusade; @Website Mafia)
- ▶ Safety of buses ("better check under your buses")
- ▶ Staff accusations
- ▶ Continued threats to take down the website
- ▶ Bomb inside Crawfordsville High School
- ▶ Taunting high school administration

The Big Scare

- ▶ Reference to an armed person in a specific classroom
- ▶ Law enforcement and administration go to classroom and investigated, searched and interviewed students
- ▶ Right teachers for the moment

Continued Social Media Activity

- ▶ Webkillers
- ▶ We have been notified that Crawfordsville High School has a bomb in the building. Please look into this.
- ▶ We are now working with @NakedPortraits
- ▶ We're back
- ▶ @website crusade was deactivated/suspended by Twitter

Unified Messaging

- ▶ Integrity of the investigation
- ▶ Day of the threat: school messenger and email messages
- ▶ Sunday afternoon: weekend update
- ▶ Monday and Wednesday updates
- ▶ Sheriff and administration communicated regularly through voice and text
- ▶ Superintendent communicated daily with Board President

Staff Email Communication

- ▶ **From:** Dr. Shawn Greiner
- ▶ **Sent:** Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:41 PM
- ▶ **To:** Entire Corporation
- ▶ **Subject:** Friday's Incident Update
- ▶
- ▶ Team,
- ▶
- ▶ Law enforcement continues to work tirelessly on the case pertaining to the threats posted on social media last Friday. At this time there are no new updates to pass along to you. As we receive new information and until the case is solved, we will communicate accordingly.
- ▶
- ▶ Additional Note - We plan to send this same message to parents tomorrow morning.
- ▶
- ▶ Thank you,
- ▶ Shawn

Calming Fears and Concerns

- ▶ Prepare for ongoing threats
- ▶ Administration visited both junior high and high school staff with verbal update and answered questions
- ▶ Consideration of scanning at building entrances
- ▶ Maintenance continually conducted exterior door security checks
- ▶ Montgomery County Sheriff's Department posted at all schools

Law Enforcement Collaboration

- ▶ Montgomery County Sheriff's Department
- ▶ Indiana State Police Cyber staff
- ▶ Southmont Schools administration
- ▶ Director of Technology and previous director
- ▶ Outside technology consultation
- ▶ Corporation office - "war room"

Moving in on Suspect

▶ **From:** Dr. Shawn Greiner
▶ **Sent:** Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:30 PM
▶ **To:** Entire Corporation
▶ **Subject:** Twitter Activity - School Threat

▶ All,

▶ The Twitter activity is occurring again. We have sent the following message out to parents throughout the corporation via voice. We will be sending the message out via email as well here shortly. We will provide you additional information as we have it available.

▶ Thank you,
▶ Shawn

▶ **Message From Superintendent's Office**

▶ This message is to inform you the Twitter activity has begun again. Law enforcement continues to address each and every electronic threat that we receive. A Twitter feed exists that an armed student was in a specific location at Southmont High School. Law enforcement has searched and has confirmed that that Tweet is false. We will continue to communicate as we receive updates from law enforcement.

Suspect Captured (2/3/16)

- ▶ Southmont High School student
- ▶ Use of cellular phone and public wifi

Joint Press Release

- ▶ A Team Effort Has Juvenile in Custody
- ▶ Press Release

Post Incident Review

- ▶ Debriefing at all levels
- ▶ Montgomery County Sheriff
- ▶ Central Office team
- ▶ Administrative team
- ▶ Building level teams
- ▶ Montgomery County Superintendents and Sheriff
- ▶ School Board report
- ▶ ALICE training – questions and answers

Debriefing notes

- ▶ No sense of panic in central office
- ▶ Communication to parents
- ▶ Organized and safe dismissal
- ▶ Students to lockers before cafeteria/auditorium
- ▶ Immediate notification of administration
- ▶ Transportation communication
- ▶ Spanish speaking parents in school messenger
- ▶ CTE students in school messenger
- ▶ Separated messages from student emails
- ▶ Future social media and device usage

Debriefing notes

- ▶ More communication to elementary administration
- ▶ Crisis protocols
- ▶ Not enough information
- ▶ Shared media releases (Brownsburg, Plainfield)

- ▶ Eric W. Brewer
- ▶ Director of Business and Operations
- ▶ 765-866-0203
- ▶ Eric.brewer@southmont.k12.in.us

