

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

April 15, 2026

MINUTES

Members/Designees:

Lt. Governor Austin A. Davis, Chairman
Maj. Michaelann Andrusiak, Governor's Office of Homeland Security
Ms. Sabrina Backer, Member
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Designee for DHS Secretary Arkoosh
Ms. Janice Bart, Member
Col. George Bivens, Member
Ms. Angela Fitterer, Designee for PDE Secretary Rowe
Lt. Kyle Gautsch, Member
Mr. Michael Hurley, Member
Mr. Michael Kelly, Member
Ms. Kirsten Kenyon, Designee for Chairman Davis
Ms. Brittney Kline, Designee for Attorney General Sunday
Senator Nick Miller, Member
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member

Staff:

Pamela Bennett	Patricia Manbeck
Matthew Conn	Heather Masshardt
Camila Contreras	Betsy May
Leslie Coombe	Heidi Metzger
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks	Ian Murray
Chris Epoca	Derin Myers
Kristina Gonzalez	Charla Plaines
Heather Hewitt	Cynthia Rice
Chuck Hogan	Kayleigh Siemer
Daniel Hull	Amanda Spahr
Rebecca Kiehl	Lindsay Vaughan
Samantha Koch	Mandy Weiser
Crystal Lauver	Emily White
Jordan Lewis	Ulysses Wilson
Leo Lutz	

Guests:

Diane Acri, PA House of Representatives
Kirstin Alvanitakis, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Patrick Bircher, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Kerri Lynn Blakey, The Lincoln Center for Family & Youth
Quinten Boose, Remaining Rooted Collective
Sean Brandon, PA House of Representatives
Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association (PSEA)
Andrew Christ, PA School Boards Association
Kristin Daniels, Governor's Office of Homeland Security
Michael Deery, PA Senate
Stephen D'Ettorre, Office of the Governor
Tobi Downing, Office of the Attorney General
Carli Ducko, Montgomery County Public Safety
Kendra Eckman, PA CASA Association
Emma Eglinton, PA House of Representatives
Noah Glattke, PA Senate
Jason Henry, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Tanna Henry, Dauphin County District Attorney's Office
Ilgenfritz
Scott Kuren, PA Department of Education (PDE)

Renee Lamis, Housing Authority of the City of Erie
Matt McCarry, PA House of Representatives
Karen Molchanow, PA State Board of Education
Samantha Nields, Chester County Emergency Services
Tanesha O
Daphne Reid, Reading Is Fundamental Pittsburgh
Jonathan Russell, Carnegie Museums
Beth Sanborn, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety
Staff, The Lincoln Center for Family & Youth
Tiara Teague, Neighborhood Resilience Project
Kate Thompson, Carnegie Museums
Shaun White, PA State Police – Homeland Security
Vicki Wilken, PA Senate
Steven Williams, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Morgan Wright, PA House of Representatives
Dylan Wyatt, PA Assn. of School Business Officials (PASBO)

Call to Order of the April 15, 2026, Meeting and Adoption of Minutes

Chairman Austin Davis called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and welcomed participants. A quorum of members was confirmed. Stating that the minutes from the January 29, 2026, meeting were included in the materials provided in advance of this meeting, Chairman Davis called for a motion to approve them.

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2026, meeting as submitted.

Motion: Davis. **Second:** Tuleya-Payne. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Kline, Miller & Bart. **Aye Votes:** 9. **Nay Votes:** 0.

FY25-26 VIP and Building Opportunity Through Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grant Program Recommendations

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Lindsay Vaughan to present information on the Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) and BOOST grant program recommendations. Ms. Vaughan reviewed highlights of this year's grant program, including the breakdown of the \$62.15 M available based on the approved funding framework, changes from last year, application open and closing dates, eligible activities, and applicant types.

Ms. Vaughan stated that 464 applications requesting \$158,271,200 were received and reviewed by 19 teams. She shared the priority considerations during review and snapshots of the areas requested by applicants. She noted that some unexpended/uncommitted VIP funds were able to be added to the funding available to increase the number of supported projects, stating the recommendation to fund 176 applications totaling \$64.2 M, including 28 BOOST local awards. Ms. Vaughan then showed maps of the recommended BOOST and VIP projects, illustrating their geographic spread. She concluded by noting that the VIP Workgroup met last week and summarizing the staff and Workgroup recommendation to fund a total of 177 applicants, including one statewide project, with a total of \$65,267,808.

Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Vaughan for her presentation and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion to approve the Fiscal Year 25-26 Recommended VIP and BOOST and Statewide BOOST applicants, as presented, for an amount not to exceed \$65,267,808, pending resolution of any programmatic or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Bart. **Second:** Barnes. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None. **Aye Votes:** 12. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Chairman Davis thanked the members for their vote, stating that PCCD staff will notify applicants who were awarded funds and begin onboarding them into the grant program.

Safe Schools Regulations

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Samantha Koch to provide information regarding the revisions and realignments made to the Safe Schools Regulations. In her PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Koch reviewed the background of the current Safe Schools regulations, which were originally adopted in 2012 in response to new statutory mandates. She stated that Act 33 tasked PCCD with updating and promulgating these regulations by December 2026.

Ms. Koch shared the timeline of key steps and progress made to date, including the drafting of initial updates, convening of a new School Safety Regulations workgroup, and development of proposed revised regulations. She related workgroup members' perspectives on what's going well and areas that could be improved and also noted a sample of the many things that did not exist in 2012, such as the School Safety and Security Committee, Safe2Say Something Program, threat assessment teams, and more.

Ms. Koch identified six required elements for the regulations and summarized the key proposed changes. At her invitation, Ms. Heather Masshardt provided some additional information regarding Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and the intent of the MOU and the statute to be between the school entity and an outside law enforcement agency. Both Ms. Masshardt and Ms. Koch thanked the workgroup members for their efforts. Ms. Koch then concluded her presentation with a timeline of next steps and invited any questions.

A member asked a question regarding the timeline and if the proposed regulations would be presented to any other groups besides the Committee and State Board of Education. Ms. Koch confirmed only those two at this point in time but said they could be presented to others if recommended. Another member asked what act these regulations will fall under. Ms. Koch stated that they will be under 37 Pa. Code and will be created as a new chapter, 410.

Since Chairman Davis needed to leave, PCCD Executive Director Kirsten Kenyon took over chairing the meeting. She thanked Ms. Koch and Ms. Masshardt for the informative presentation and the members for their questions and called for a motion.

Motion to approve the proposed Safe Schools Regulations, as presented, to become the new 37 Pa. Code Chapter 410, pending all final reviews, regulatory procedures, and approval by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Motion: Tuleya-Payne. **Second:** Fitterer. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None. **Aye Votes:** 12. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Annual School Safety and Security Coordinator Training

Ms. Kenyon invited Ms. Heather Masshardt to inform members regarding this action item. Ms. Masshardt noted that Act 47 of 2025 amended and added the following new subsection to [Section 1309-B](#) of the PA School Code:

(d)(2) School administrators appointed as safety and security coordinators shall complete any additional continuing education requirements as adopted by the committee.

Ms. Masshardt stated that based on data from the annual School Safety and Security Coordinator (SSC) Report and feedback received both from the Act 55 training survey and directly from Coordinators, PCCD staff determined that while continuing education requirements are important for the SSC role, they should accommodate the reality that most Coordinators hold multiple roles at the school entity. She said that PCCD staff are therefore recommending that Coordinators be required to earn one (1) hour of continuing education annually, beginning their second year. PCCD staff will recommend the continuing education topic(s) for approval by the School Safety and Security Committee each year, prior to the start of the next school year, based on data from the annual School Safety and Security Coordinator Report submissions, Act 55 of 2022 training survey data, and other feedback from Coordinators. Ms. Masshardt stated that complete information, including details on the recommended requirement for the 2026-2027 school year, is documented in the meeting materials.

Ms. Kenyon thanked Ms. Masshardt and asked if members had any questions or concerns. Hearing none, she called for a motion.

Motion to approve the Continuing Education Requirements for School Safety and Security Coordinators, as presented.

Motion: Bart. **Second:** Barnes. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None.

Aye Votes: 12. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

2026 Annual School Safety and Security Coordinator Survey

Ms. Kenyon invited Ms. Masshardt to continue with her presentation of this year's survey. Noting that members will find a copy of this year's survey questions in the meeting materials, Ms. Masshardt stated that the survey is very similar to previous years. She pointed out the one main addition of a new question on the attendance of newly required monthly meetings to comply with the requirements of Act 47 of 2025. She also identified some optional questions stemming from the Executive Committee regarding lockdown or safe cover/hold responses by school entities during the school year. Ms. Masshardt asked if members had any questions or concerns with including the optional questions, with none heard.

Ms. Masshardt informed members of a change to the platform and survey format to streamline the process, adding that staff anticipate sending out the survey the end of May and keeping it open through at least the end of July. She concluded by offering to inform members when the survey is released to facilitate assistance in spreading the word to Coordinators to complete it.

Ms. Kenyon thanked Ms. Masshardt and asked if members had any questions regarding her presentation, but none were raised.

Executive Committee Update

Ms. Kenyon invited Ms. Brittney Kline to provide the report on the Executive Committee on behalf of chair Ms. Kirsten Heine from their last meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2026. Ms. Kline related the following updates:

- The Safe2Say Something team is conducting training for school entities on handling disposition of reports.
- The Attorney General's Office is holding teen talk roundtables across the Commonwealth on the impact of social media on mental health.
- The PA Department of Education is also hosting symposiums addressing student mental health. Both groups anticipate releasing reports later this year.
- The PA State Police noted that trainings have continued for schools on addressing threats of nihilistic violent extremism.
- Participants also discussed the 2026 Annual School Safety and Security Coordinator survey and what information may be helpful to collect this year based on current trends and environments.

Ms. Kline concluded her report by noting that the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026.

General Updates

Ms. Kenyon thanked Ms. Kline for her report and invited Ms. Masshardt to share the following general updates.

School Safety & Mental Health Grants

Ms. Masshardt reminded members that the 25-26 School Safety and Mental Health grants funding announcement opened on December 10, 2025, and closed on February 27, 2026. She shared that a total of 762 applications were submitted, including from all school districts. She stated that 521 applications have been fully awarded and that the remaining grant applications are working their way through the program and fiscal review and approval process.

Ms. Masshardt also provided an update on the 25-26 Targeted School Safety for Nonpublic Schools grant program, noting that the funding announcement closed on March 30, 2026. She stated that

the competitive review process is underway, with the goal of bringing recommendations to the Committee for approval at the June 3 meeting.

Training Planning

Ms. Masshardt provided an update on the efforts to develop a full proposal to present to the Committee in June to address all of the various training and technical assistance needs of schools under the Committee's purview, including training school employees, School Safety and Security Coordinators, threat assessment teams, and school security personnel. She said that the proposal will implement training in phases, starting with mandated training and technical assistance and adding requested components in later phases with the intent that the proposal will establish comprehensive approaches to support streamlined credentialing through a variety of delivery options.

Ms. Masshardt stated that staff are currently assessing technical platforms, potential partnerships, and overall costs to present a model that looks at using available funding to support costs across a 5-year scope and beyond. She added that PCCD is still awaiting notification regarding the application submitted for the federal Bureau of Justice Assistance STOP School Violence grant to fund the threat assessment training and technical assistance project and expansion, which will also be a factor in the proposal.

Ms. Masshardt concluded her remarks by referencing the General Updates document in the meeting materials, which includes additional details regarding school safety assessment providers, school security personnel third-party vendors, Act 55 training providers, school security personnel training providers, school security personnel waiver numbers, current Act 55 training statistics, and an update related to approved private schools.

Ms. Kenyon thanked Ms. Masshardt and asked if members had any questions regarding these updates. A member commented on the proposal's inclusion of an annual conference and suggested looking for speakers even years in advance.

Member Updates/Comments/Questions

Ms. Kenyon asked if any member had updates or other business to bring before the Committee, but none were presented.

Public Comment

Ms. Kenyon invited any public comment, with none heard.

Adjournment

Ms. Kenyon reminded members that the next School Safety and Security Committee meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, starting at 1:00 PM. She anticipated that the meeting may take a little longer due to the number of agenda items expected from the workgroup recommendations and said that the meeting details and materials will be made available prior to the meeting. Following the vote, the meeting adjourned at 1:47 PM.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Tuleya-Payne. **Seconded:** Bart. **Not Present for Vote:** Kline. **Aye Votes:** 11.