

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

**School Safety and Security Committee Meeting**

January 29, 2026

MINUTES

**Members/Designees:**

Lt. Governor Austin A. Davis, Chairman  
Ms. Sabrina Backer, Member  
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Designee for DHS Secretary Arkoosh  
Ms. Janice Bart, Member  
Ms. Kristin Daniels, Designee for PSP Commissioner Bivens  
Dr. Benjamin Feeney, Member  
Ms. Angela Fitterer, Designee for PDE Secretary Rowe  
Ms. Kirsten Kenyon, Designee for Chairman Davis  
Ms. Rebecca Kilfoy, Member  
Ms. Brittney Kline, Designee for Attorney General Sunday  
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member  
Senator Nick Miller, Member  
Director Randy Padfield, Member  
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member  
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member  
Representative Dane Watro, Jr., Member  
Representative Regina Young, Member

**Staff:**

Pamela Bennett	Heather Masshardt
Matthew Conn	Betsy May
Camila Contreras	Heidi Metzger
Leslie Coombe	Zoe Miner
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks	Ian Murray
Jennifer Ely	Derin Myers
Chris Epoca	Charla Plaines
Heather Hewitt	Cynthia Rice
Chuck Hogan	Kayleigh Siemer
Daniel Hull	Alison Sindlinger
Rebecca Kiehl	Lindsay Vaughan
Samantha Koch	Mandy Weiser
Crystal Lauver	Emily White
Leo Lutz	Teresa Wilcox
Patricia Manbeck	Ulysses Wilson

**Guests:**

Diane Acri, PA House of Representatives  
Patrick Bircher, PA Department of Education (PDE)  
Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association (PSEA)  
Andrew Christ, PA School Boards Association  
Gwenn Dando, PA Senate  
Brandon Deppen, Warren County School District & Area Vo-Tech  
Tobi Downing, Office of the Attorney General  
Carli Ducko, Montgomery County Public Safety  
Emma Eglinton, PA House of Representatives  
Scott Eisenhart, PA House of Representatives  
Kirsten Heine, Office of Attorney General, Executive Committee Chair  
Jason Henry, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor  
Zane Hensal, PA Senate  
Bradley Keen, PA House of Representatives  
Scott Kuren, PA Department of Education (PDE)  
Evan Martin, PA Senate  
Samantha Nields, Chester County Emergency Services

Morgan Pontious, PA House of Representatives  
Beth Sanborn, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety  
Christina Simpkins, Avon Grove School District & Charter School  
Chris Stone, RSM/Sigma 7  
Kimberly Weaver, RSM/Sigma 7  
Shaun White, PA State Police – Homeland Security  
Vicki Wilken, PA Senate  
Steven Williams, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor

### **Call to Order of the January 29, 2026, Meeting and Adoption of Minutes**

Chairman Austin Davis called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and welcomed participants. A quorum of members was confirmed. Stating that the minutes from the December 10, 2025, 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 December 10, 2025, meeting as submitted.**

**Motion:** Barnes. **Second:** Feeney. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Kilfoy, Miller, Padfield & Piraino. **Aye Votes:** 12. **Nay Votes:** 0.

### **Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools Funding Framework**

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Lindsay Vaughan to present information on the funding framework for these safety grants for nonpublic school entities. Ms. Vaughan stated that the framework is fairly similar to what was used last year. She reviewed the available funding of \$20.7 million with a maximum of \$75,000 per applicant over a two-year period and identified the eligible applicants, approved uses of funds to enhance school safety and security, and priority considerations.

Ms. Vaughan highlighted some changes that are new this year, including using the PCCD Egrants System to solicit applications to facilitate a truncated award process and expanding the project period to two years instead of 18 months, allowing a longer timeframe for project completion. She described the review process, for which the applicants will be divided into geographic regions with the amount of funding allotted to each region determined by the percentage of demand. Ms. Vaughan noted that municipalities, law enforcement agencies and third-party vendors of school security personnel will be scored separately from the nonpublic school entities, with the amount allocated to be similarly determined by the percentage of funds requested.

Ms. Vaughan anticipated that this funding opportunity would be announced shortly and remain open for eight weeks, with recommended project awards to be presented to the Committee at the June 3, 2026 meeting. Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Vaughan for her presentation and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

#### **Motion to adopt the 2025-26 Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools Funding Framework, as presented.**

**Motion:** Bart. **Second:** Fitterer. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Padfield & Piraino. **Aye Votes:** 14. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Chairman Davis thanked the members for their vote, stating that PCCD staff will work to get this funding announcement open and communicated out to school entities as quickly as possible.

### **Assessment Provider Registry – Review of Assessment Providers**

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Heather Masshardt to share information regarding the review of school safety and security assessment providers. Ms. Masshardt provided some background on the School Safety and Security Assessment Provider Registry and the current number of providers, totaling 236, including 171 approved to conduct physical security assessments, 51 behavioral health assessors, and 14 dually approved to conduct both types of assessments. In response to a question raised at the last meeting regarding how many school entities have used assessors from the Registry, Ms. Masshardt reported that of the 516 respondents indicating completion of an

assessment in the past three years in the 2025 Biennial Survey, 213 stated that they used an approved assessment provider from the Registry.

Ms. Masshardt updated members on the new requirements of Act 47 of 2025, which added subsections to [Section 1304-B](#) of the PA Public School Code addressing the review and removal of registered assessment providers. She stated that the Committee must annually select a sample of active registered School Safety and Security Assessment Providers to submit a completed assessment for review and that all registered assessment providers must be reviewed every three years. Registered assessment providers may be required to correct deficiencies identified in assessment materials and may be removed from the registered provider list if the assessors are unresponsive or inactive, or if the completed assessment materials they submit are determined to be inconsistent with the Committee's approved assessment criteria.

Ms. Masshardt said that PCCD staff plan to start the review process in the coming weeks, beginning with identifying assessment providers who have been on the Registry since its inception through 2020. She stated that staff will request that the selected assessment providers submit materials for a completed assessment that is dated and has the school entity's name removed.

Regarding the removal of registered assessment providers, Ms. Masshardt stated that PCCD staff are requesting that the SSSC consider a Delegation of Authority for staff, with recommendation of the Executive Director, to remove approved assessment providers from the registry if they are unresponsive to staff outreach after at least 3 contact attempts; if they are inactive, following at least 2 years of engagement on the Registry; or if their materials are determined to be inconsistent with approved assessment criteria, following notification and opportunity to correct their assessment materials. She assured members that staff will do due diligence and work with registered assessors to address extenuating circumstances, provide technical assistance and maintain documentation. She stated that complete details of this process may be viewed in the Delegation of Authority document included in the meeting materials.

After thanking Ms. Masshardt, Chairman Davis invited any questions. A member asked about removal of an approved assessor who is qualified and willing but has never been contacted to conduct an assessment. Ms. Masshardt said that staff plan to engage them in that process and try to figure out why they have not been chosen and strategize ways to address that, adding that there is no rush to remove a provider and there will be the opportunity for them to reapply if they are removed. Ms. Masshardt also stated that while the initial review will be conducted by staff in-house, PCCD will involve external individuals with expertise to assist if there are questions or other areas of concern before making someone inactive. Chairman Davis thanked the member for their question and called for a motion.

**Motion to adopt Delegation of Authority to PCCD staff to remove registered assessment providers when they are unresponsive, inactive, or their materials are determined to be inconsistent with the Committee's approved assessment criteria.**

**Motion:** Tuleya-Payne. **Second:** Watro. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Padfield. **Aye Votes:** 15. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

### **Use of Unexpended, Uncommitted, or Unencumbered School Safety and Security Funds**

Chairman Davis invited Mr. Derin Myers to inform members regarding this action item. Mr. Myers referenced the document in the meeting materials describing this action item, stating that it pertains to the newly enacted [Section 1306-B\(h\)](#) of the PA Public School Code. This change allows the Committee to make a determination one time a year as to whether or not PCCD can utilize unexpended, uncommitted, or unencumbered School Safety and Security Funds to support costs associated with implementing the school safety and security program, including training requirements. He clarified that PCCD considers the uncommitted balance to only be money that is neither officially nor unofficially committed to a purpose.

Mr. Myers stated that the completed analysis found the current balance of these unexpended, uncommitted, or unencumbered funds to be over \$50 million, mostly from interest generated on

the funds in the account with the remainder comprised of lapsed or returned funding. As a point of awareness, he mentioned that throughout the year 60 or more PCCD staff are working on the school safety and security program, noting that it is a major undertaking. Mr. Myers explained PCCD's request to use a portion of these available funds to support training and administrative costs for this fiscal year. He added the expectation of revisiting this determination each year, likely closer to July, as long as these funds are available, per the School Code. Chairman Davis thanked Mr. Myers and asked if members had any questions or concerns. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

**Motion to authorize the use of up to \$1,985,000 in unexpended, uncommitted, and unencumbered money from the School Safety and Security Fund to support fiscal year 25-26 administrative and training costs.**

**Motion:** Tuleya-Payne. **Second:** Davis. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None. **Aye Votes:** 16. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

**Sigma7/RSM Presentation on 24-25 End-of-Year Survey for Act 55 School Safety and Security Training**

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Masshardt to introduce the RSM training partners who will provide an overview of the survey results. Ms. Masshardt reminded members that Risk and Strategic Management (RSM) has conducted an annual survey each fall since Act 55 of 2022 was enacted to assess the training provided to both school employees and School Safety and Security Coordinators. She introduced Mr. Chris Stone from RSM who presented an overview of this year's survey results, adding that the complete survey report is included in the meeting materials for members' review.

Mr. Stone began by informing participants that RSM was recently absorbed into Sigma 7 and then moved into reviewing a PowerPoint presentation highlighting key aspects of the survey and findings. He gave a brief historical overview starting with development of the initial training modules in 2023, noting that this presentation will focus on trends and highlights from the end of year survey leading into 2026.

Mr. Stone stated that the survey was sent out in October and had 411 respondents identifying as School Safety and Security Coordinators, with 321 responding as either attending in-person or online training. He said that the responses were statistically positive with 97% reporting that they were using at least one area of training in their work. The majority of participants also accessed the online resource documents, including the Legal Guide, which he said continues to be updated with the [latest version](#) available on the [training website](#).

Next, Mr. Stone covered the end of year survey for school employees. He reviewed the responses and percentage of employees from the various school entity types, noting that over 75% accessed all six modules and 93% found the additional resources helpful. Mr. Stone concluded his presentation by highlighting some of the training statistics, additional trainings of interest delivered in 2025, and future training plans, including the anticipated rolling out of additional training modules during 2026. He later added that all the modules will be available in both English and Spanish, noting that the survey results indicated that the need for other languages was significantly lower.

Ms. Masshardt thanked Mr. Stone for his presentation. She noted that the full survey report was included in the meeting materials and encouraged members to review the data for future discussion related to continuing education for School Safety and Security Coordinators.

Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Masshardt and asked if members had any questions regarding the presentation. A member asked if the percentages of the school employees who took the training from approved private schools were commensurate with the percentage of that school entity type among all school entities or if certain entity types are underutilizing these trainings. Ms. Masshardt responded that the Biennial Survey might provide better information on the total number of

employees that report completing the Act 55 training, adding that she will compile that information for the next meeting.

### **Executive Committee Update**

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Kirsten Heine to provide the report on the Executive Committee from their last meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026. Ms. Heine related the following updates:

- The Safe2Say Something team provided an update regarding the new requirements for schools to handle dispositions of reports, and the team's plan to provide training and support to schools.
- The PA State Police also provided an update regarding the training they have provided to schools, including additional briefings related to Nihilistic Violent Extremism.
- PEMA shared information about the platform available for emergency preparedness planning.
- The PA Department of Education noted that guidance has been issued to schools on Act 44 of 2025, which requires notification of parents/guardians and school staff regarding possession of weapons on school property.

Ms. Heine concluded her report by noting that the next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026.

### **General Updates**

Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Heine for her report and invited Ms. Masshardt to share the following general updates. Ms. Masshardt prefaced her brief remarks by stating that the General Updates document included in the meeting materials has additional background on these items as well as details of school security personnel vendors & training providers and the Act 55 training statistics.

#### School Safety & Mental Health Grants

Ms. Masshardt noted that the 25-26 School Safety and Mental Health grants funding announcement opened on December 10, 2025, and as had previously been shared with members, the deadline for those applications was extended to February 27, 2026. She shared that thus far over 460 applications have been submitted with 74 grants in the final award stages and 36 fully awarded, adding that the remaining grant applications are working their way through the program and fiscal review and approval process.

#### School Security Personnel Waivers

Ms. Masshardt acknowledged that the meeting materials indicate a significant change in the number of approved school security personnel waivers from the last meeting due to the expiration of several waivers at the end of 2025. She said that there are currently 18 school districts with approved waivers, explaining that a small number of school districts reapplied and were granted an additional waiver, mostly for situations where there is a single school security personnel in place and they requested a waiver for time periods when that personnel may not be available. She reiterated that schools may apply for a waiver at any time using the [Online Waiver Application Form](#) on the [School Safety and Security](#) webpage.

#### Workgroups

Ms. Masshardt stated that there is detailed information included in the General Updates document regarding three workgroups that PCCD staff plan to convene to address some of the statutory requirements assigned to the Committee in 2026. She reviewed the purposes and interagency collaborators for the *School Safety Regulations* and *School Security Personnel Training Standards* workgroups and the workgroups being assembled to review and consider updates for the *Physical Security Baseline Criteria* and *Behavioral Health Baseline Criteria* in accordance with [Section 1302.1-B](#) of the PA Public School Code. She shared the plan to conduct these workgroups over the next few months with the goal of ensuring everything is in place before the next school year and to meet statutory timelines. She asked that members let her know if they want to participate or have recommendations for workgroup participants.

### **Member Updates/Comments/Questions**

Chairman Davis asked if any member had updates or other business to bring before the Committee.

### **Public Comment**

Chairman Davis invited any public comment, with none heard.

### **Announcement of Executive Session**

Chairman Davis announced that members of the School Safety and Security Committee would be moving into an Executive Session to receive an informational report on the results from the Annual School Safety and Security Coordinator report and School Security Personnel report issued last summer, given that the details of the reports address items that may impact the physical safety and security of students, staff, and school buildings in the Commonwealth. Since the only agenda item following the Executive Session is Adjournment, Chairman Davis said that any visitors are welcome to leave the meeting or may stay until the members of the Committee return from Executive Session.

### **Adjournment**

Following the return of members to the meeting, Chairman Davis' designee, PCCD Executive Director Kirsten Kenyon, addressed the remaining participants. She stated that the next two meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday, April 15 and Wednesday, June 3, both starting at 1:00 PM. She noted that Save the Date notices for both meetings were sent out with meeting details and materials to be made available closer to those dates. Following the vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:19 PM.

### **Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion:** Tuleya-Payne. **Seconded:** Backer. **Not Present for Vote:** Kilfoy, Langerholc, Miller, Piraino & Watro. **Aye Votes:** 11.