

# SECURED SCHOOL SAFETY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting Details

---

**Date:** October 18, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 PM

**Location:** In person and virtually via Microsoft Teams – Pursuant to [IC 5-14-1.5-3.6](#)

---

### Member Attendance

---

Name	Present		Means of Participation
	Yes	No	
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Means (MS Teams)
Eric Bowlen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NA
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Person

---

### Notes

---

Additional information may be available at the [DHS Boards and Commissions Page](#).

Designee for Secretary of Education: Stephen Balko

Designee for Attorney General: Philip Gordon

Vacancies: Local Law Enforcement Officer

---

1. Call to Order – At 2:00 p.m. Chairman Thacker called the October 18, 2023, meeting of the Secured School Safety Board to order. Some members attended the meeting electronically by videoconference and teleconference call through Microsoft Teams, pursuant to the requirements of [Indiana Code § 5-14-1.5-3.6](#).
2. Roll Call and Quorum Determination – A roll call was conducted to determine member attendance. The results are included above.
3. Review and Action on August 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes – The Board reviewed the Meeting Minutes, as posted in the meeting materials, and requested no corrections. The Board **approved** the minutes by a vote of 5-0.

Name	Vote	
	Yes	No
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Bowlen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Review and Action on report to the governor and legislative council
- a. Some schools double-reported their SRO data.
    - i. Some SRO/LEO aggregate data will be adjusted.
  - b. Rusty asked for the board to approve the draft report as is with the contingency that the SRO aggregate data will be adjusted for accuracy.
  - c. SSSG data in the report is correct.
  - d. The report will have a note that some SROs were paid for through contract or MOU with either a law enforcement agency or private entity, which was not required for the report by the statute.
  - e. **Motion:** Approve the report with the forthcoming amendments to the aggregate data.

Name	Vote	
	Yes	No
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Bowlen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Establish date for the county safe schools commission report to be due annually
- a. Every county must have a county school safety commission by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
  - b. **Motion:** Counties must submit their county safe schools commission report by September 1<sup>st</sup> annually, starting in 2024.

Name	Vote	
	Yes	No
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Bowlen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Secured School Safety Grant update and clarifying question
  - a. All award letters were distributed by September 1st.
  - b. All awards were accepted.
  - c. If a school has an unarmed SRO, since we are not funding unarmed SROs, can they use that expense for match?
    - i. **Motion:** Only program allowable expenses can be approved for grant and match expenditures.

Name	Vote	
	Yes	No
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Bowlen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doug Carter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Final Comments/Closing Remarks
  - a. Philip Gordon asked if form approval was approved for the FY24 SSSG Grant. Ada Knight reported that it was.
    - i. A few contracts will have special exceptions and will need to be sent to the Attorney General's Office for approval.
  - b. Doug Carter wanted to note that ISP has had a lot of contact with schools regarding concerns with potential terrorism due to heightened tensions. They are willing to provide refresher trainings for schools if requested.
8. Next Meeting
  - a. No specific date was set for the next meeting, though the next meeting was noted for after the first of the year, unless Griffith Community Schools submits documentation for their Common School Fund Loan request or another request is received.

***A public notice with specific details regarding the format of the meeting will be provided on the [DHS Boards and Commissions Page](#) in advance of the meeting date.***

9. Adjournment
  - a. **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.
  - b. Chairman Thacker adjourned the meeting at 2:22pm.

Name	Vote		Notes
	Yes	No	
Stephen Balko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eric Bowlen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Doug Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Philip Gordon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Devon McDonald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Joel Thacker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	