



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DISTRICT SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

March 22, 2018



Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent Manny Caulk established the District Safety Advisory Council to examine best practices in school safety and develop specific recommendations to ensure all Fayette County Public Schools are safe places to learn and work.

The Council is comprised of 28 students, teachers, parents, principals, district officials, Lexington-Fayette Urban County representatives, community advocates, law enforcement officers, business representatives and faith leaders.

The group will meet six times during the month of March and deliver a white paper with recommendations during the first week of April. You can follow the work of the council by visiting www.fcps.net/advisorycouncil.

TONIGHT'S DISCUSSION

The fifth meeting of the council focused on the topic of social media. Guest speakers were: Tyson Carroll, a Detective with the Lexington Division of Police,



Heather Harer, Vice President of Business Development & Educational Partnerships with Social Sentinel, and Heather Eppley, the Academy Coach at Bryan Station High School, joined by a senior in the Bryan Station High School Information Technology Academy.

Eppley and her student began by giving the advisory council an overview of social media use among teens. Overall, Snapchat and Instagram reign supreme for high schoolers, Eppley said, they are not on twitter or Facebook as much as older generations, citing national research that found:

- 76 percent of American teens age 13-17 use Instagram.
- 75 percent of teens use Snapchat.
- 66 percent of teens use Facebook.
- 47 percent of teens use Twitter.
- Fewer than 30 percent of American teens use Tumblr, Twitch, or LinkedIn.

Social media is attractive to students, panelists said, because it gives them a voice, allows them to quickly share and receive information, gives them access to experts and resources, and connects them to one another.

Panelists also noted that most students have multiple social media accounts on the same platforms and are using multiple texting apps in addition to the texting feature on their phone. The reliance on electronic communication makes face-to-face communication more intimidating, they said, because they're used to being able to edit and perfect posts before sharing.

Among the downsides of social media is the "fear of missing out" (FOMO) phenomenon which can add to feelings of isolation, anxiety and depression. The ability to be constantly connected also enables teens to know when they are being ignored, which can make them feel more alone. Research also suggests that young people who spend more than two hours per day on social media are more likely to report poor mental health and negative body images, the panelists said, and numerous studies have shown that increased social media use is also linked with poor quality sleep.

Carroll told the advisory council about three main dangers of social media that law enforcement agencies deal with: cyber-bullying, sex crimes and school violence, including fights and threats. In the most extreme cases, cyber-bullying can lead to suicide, Carroll said. Sex crimes usually begin with someone taking an inappropriate picture and sharing it. Once shared, naked pictures of minors become child pornography, he said. Sometimes those in possession of nude photos use it to intimidate, threaten, bully or extort the subject of the picture.

Harer spoke with the advisory council about ways to use listening technology to watch for warning signs in social media postings. By reviewing publicly available social media posts, she said, it is possible to see patterns in photos and comments to identify threats or dangerous activity and alert school and law enforcement officials. Examples in other communities have included illegal drug distribution, self harm, suicide threats and possible school violence, she said.

During a lively question and answer session, the panel members advised parents and other caregivers to place limits on social media use, to be on the same social media platforms as their teens and to stay on top of social media trends.

"We need as adults to get on board with the new way of communicating," Harer said. "It's going to take us to educate ourselves. Instead of trying to change it, we need to adapt."

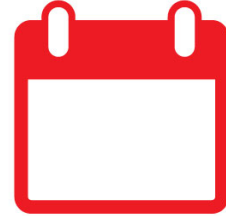
UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 29, 2018

6 to 8 p.m.

Topic: Facilitated Discussion of Recommendations

Location: Henry Clay High School, 2100 Fontaine Road



HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

If you have questions, comments or suggestions for the council, you can email them to advisorycouncil@fayette.kyschools.us. During the meetings, public comments are being collected electronically through [slido.com](https://www.slido.com) or the [sli.do](https://www.sli.do) app. We are working with a professional facilitation team to review everything we receive via email and [sli.do](https://www.sli.do) and ensure that your thoughts and comments are captured as part of the work.



SEE FOR YOURSELF

Meetings of the District Safety Advisory Council are recorded and will be televised on Spectrum cable channel 197 beginning the Monday after each meeting. To access them on demand, visit www.fcps.net/advisorycouncil

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