



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DISTRICT SAFETY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

March 8, 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 26 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 second meeting of the council focused on the topic of juvenile justice. Guest speakers were: Rachel Bingham, Executive Officer, and Elton Terry, Regional



Supervisor, with the Department of Family & Juvenile Services, Heather Matics, Assistant County Attorney with the Fayette County Attorney's Office and Judge Elizabeth "Libby" Green Messer, with the Fayette County Family Court.

Each expert panelist gave the District Safety Advisory Council an overall summary of the role their agency plays in the juvenile justice system and were asked to share suggestions for improvement.

Terry addressed trends in the juvenile justice system away from punitive measures and toward support services and community-based alternatives. He noted that there have historically been racial and ethnic disparities within the system. Suggested changes included making the system easier to navigate, adding educational components for families, and connecting with families to change their image of the role of the Court Designated Worker's Office. He advised the council to research best practices before moving forward with recommendations and explained the need for additional services such as mentors. Bingham suggested the panel look at strategies that have been implemented in Georgia and Louisville.

Messer addressed the school to prison pipeline and told the council that Kentucky once ranked 4th in the nation for the highest number of incarcerated juveniles. Changes to the state law in 2012 were designed to lower those numbers and keep kids out of detention centers. Although well intentioned, the changes in the law also removed many of options once available for children who had entered the court system, Messer said. She advised the council that it can take as long as six months from the time a juvenile is referred to court and the time they appear before a judge. Among the changes she recommended were more mentors and support for students, including additional counselors.

Matics outlined the steps in the juvenile court process and explained that the County Attorney's Office has an obligation to represent the voice of the victims and also protect the interests of the accused. She explained that Fayette County uses a detention screening tool designed to determine which children should be placed in a juvenile detention center, but said the tool has limitations, noting that some recommendations may seem inappropriate for the seriousness of the crime. For example, a child with no prior history charged with Unlawful Possession of a Weapon on School Property may score a recommendation to release without supervision.

The most common issues in juvenile court are related to gangs, guns and naked pictures, Matics said. Gang activity often involves car theft, she said, and very often, juveniles charged with gun offenses do not have a prior criminal history. Although children often do not realize it, explicit images taken by one juvenile and provided voluntarily to another are considered child pornography, she said. Matics also told the council that images are sometimes distributed without the consent of the individual depicted and images are sometimes used as blackmail for sexual favors.

Areas for change identified by Matics include shortening the length of time between an offense and accountability, requiring parents to contact the CDW after a child is field-released, and increasing the availability of community-based interventions such as Youth Advocate Programs and Evening Reporting Centers.

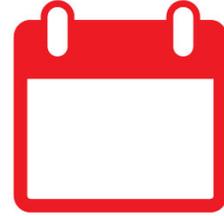
UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 15, 2018

6 to 8 p.m.

Topic: Mental Health

Location: Bryan Station High School, 201 Eastin Road



March 20, 2018

6 to 8 p.m.

Topic: Social Media

Location: Lafayette High School, 401 Reed Lane

March 22, 2018

6 to 8 p.m.

Topic: Facilitated Discussion of Recommendations

Location: Frederick Douglass High School, 2000 Winchester Road

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.slido.com) app. We are working with a professional facilitation team to review everything we receive via email and [sli.do](https://www.slido.com) 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

Fayette County Public Schools, 1126 Russell Cave Road, Lexington, KY 40509

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by news@fayette.kyschools.us in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today