

**PIO Council**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**February 27, 2018**  
**9-11 a.m.**

**Attendees**

Susan Hoke (Edgecombe)  
Amber Lynch (Wilson)  
Chip Sudderth (Durham)  
Michelle Fiscus (Franklin)  
Jeff Nash (CHCCS)  
Patricia Hollingsworth (NRMS)  
Chatesha Dickens (Halifax)  
Seth Stephens (Orange)  
Travis Lewis (Pitt)

**Handling Employee Social Media (including responding to media requests)**

- None of the districts is using software to back up social media.

**Upcoming Demonstrations re School Shootings**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

- Edgecombe considering organizing forums for students to speak to avoid a walkout.
- Franklin is making it on a non-issue. Going to allow students to walk out but they will be patted down when they return to school.
- CHCCS is preparing a letter (distributed through Blackboard) letting parents and students know how the district will be dealing with the walkout. Schools intend to provide a safe environment for those students who choose to walk out and there will not be disciplinary repercussions. Each principal needs to prepare a plan.
- No districts indicated that they would be taking disciplinary measures for students who demonstrate in an appropriate and safe manner.

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** (National demonstration)

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** (Columbine anniversary)

**Snapchat and Other Threats**

- Districts were surprised by police response to Snapchat threat.
- Orange HS had some incidents that caused much concern. Stayed in hourly contact with parents.
- Districts are struggling with “fear management” and handling rumors.

**Backup Plans for PIOs when on vacation or sick or otherwise unavailable**

- Most PIOs stay online during vacations and continue to work. It’s advisable to have some type of backup because there are going to be times when PIOs are unavailable or should not be expected to make personal sacrifices.

Perhaps could contract with someone to serve as a backup when they are unavailable.

### **Communications from Board members**

It would be good for NCSBA to do a session on Board member communications during emergencies/threats. Board member messages can cause confusion and require clarification by administration.

### **School Security**

Members discussed various tactics that they are taking (or have taken) to increase school security.

### **Homework Policies** (raised by Jeff Nash)

- Students at all grade levels are concerned about the amount of time that they spend on homework. District sent out a homework survey that has a high response rate.
- Many districts have developed homework policies to try to limit amount of homework that students are required to do.

### **Charter Schools**

- Districts are still struggling with competition from charter schools. Parents are acting upon perceptions.

### **Strategic Planning Process**

- Durham has just completed 5 community/employee forums in conjunction with its strategic planning process. It's been a healthy process.

### **March 23<sup>rd</sup> – NCSBPA Conference in Charlotte (Whitewater Center)**

Patricia encouraged all PIOs to attend.