

Governor's Statewide Safety Council

Statewide Safety council Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 25, 2026

Meeting Outcomes

Rational objective:

- Learn about school violence in Minnesota to inform potential Council recommendations that could improve school safety in Minnesota.

Experiential objective:

- Members feel confident they can weigh in on draft recommendations related to school safety and suggest enhancements unique to their agency/organization.

Attendance

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| • Bob Jacobson, DPS | • Christina Bogojevic, DPS |
| • Kate Weeks, DCYF | • Chuck Roehrdanz, AGO |
| • Dr. Macarre Traynham (alt), MDE | • Kim Babine, MM OJP |
| • Catherine Diamond, MDH | • Lon Thiele, MDS |
| • Teresa Steinmetz, DHS | • Deb Henton, MNASA |
| • Jenn Super (alt), MN Supreme Court | • Brittany Haeg, AHA |
| • Dana Gotz, BCA | • Marcus Schmit, NAMI |

Welcome and announcements

Chair Jacobson reminded members of the meeting objectives and the topical cadence of meetings. The final report is due early January.

Tap In

Briefly, what has stayed with you the most from the political violence of June 14, 2025? How has it shaped your sense of purpose or connection to this work?

- Growing awareness that threats to safety, democracy, and public service are broader and more personal than previously understood.

- Violence now affects courts, health systems, education, public safety, and everyday government work.
- Deep shock and grief over the loss of a respected leader, heightening feelings of vulnerability and collective sadness.
- A sense that society has lost its civic foundation—empathy, civics education, and community responsibility need rebuilding.
- Desire for leadership that can guide healing, restore purpose, and help Minnesotans recover from trauma.

Presentations

- Dr. James Densley reviewed the impact of council feedback on BTAM and May’s social media recommendations as well as introduced the School Recommendations worksheet. It contained the draft Council recommendations to date that intersect with the topic of schools. Followed by the meeting topic, Preventing School Shooting, See slides 9-14 in the meeting slide deck.
- School Violence Presentation, Dr. Macarre Traynham, MN Dept. of Education (MDE), Dr. Matt Hillmann, MN Association of School Administrators (MASA), and Dr. Deb Henton, MASA. See slides 15-29 in the meeting slide deck.

Council discussion

The Council discussed the following questions after the presentations. A summary of the responses follows each question.

1. If you agree that solutions for school-based prevention, intervention, and recovery are “collective responsibilities,” how are such programs really going to work? Who drives the program and pays for it? Who ultimately is accountable for the system?
 - Center student, teacher, and all school staff voices, especially given shifting post-COVID realities and widespread concerns about safety.
 - Funding and accountability for programs remain largely local; communities often step in, as seen in Anoka’s petition to prevent cuts.
 - With 331 districts focused on local control, communities act on solutions they help to develop. Set expectations and outcomes but let communities design the approach.
 - Communicate research and effective practices clearly and through trusted messengers; educate on what works.
 - Limited resources mean communities must prioritize and use existing assets rather than building new structures.
 - Social factors (race, ethnicity, gender) influence how safety messages are received; barriers should be anticipated and reduced.
 - Staffing ratios and program decisions involve trade-offs—choices and funding determine what stays and what may be cut.

- Accountability is shared but locally driven, with system-level support needed to help communities implement effectively.
2. When school systems including MDE consider or incorporate safety programming, how should those programs be vetted for effectiveness?
- Establish shared, universal definitions of effectiveness, including core outcomes such as ensuring all students and staff are safe each day.
 - Engage communities more deeply in defining and evaluating safety outcomes and program impact.
 - Increase cross-disciplinary collaboration to break down silos and assess programs collectively.
 - Ask each community to convene its own group to identify needs and develop locally tailored safety strategies.
 - Prioritize strong, consistent implementation; programs are only as effective as the follow-through and sustained support provided.
 - Maintain local control while ensuring communities have access to ongoing implementation support.
 - Use clear standards of evidence to vet programs—favoring approaches supported by research rather than anecdotal claims or unproven technologies.
 - Tie recommendations and funding decisions to the level and quality of evidence behind each safety program.

Tap out

To get beyond partisan divides, what are the shared values around collective responsibility for safe schools that everyone could support?

- *Ensuring that every child and staff member makes it home safely*
- *Safety as shared common ground across perspectives*
- *Avoiding framing safety in purely financial terms; focusing on values*
- *Commitment to non-firearm solutions for resolving school issues*
- *Children’s safety and ability to thrive as a central priority*
- *Shared humanity as the foundation for collective responsibility*
- *Budgets reflecting community values, especially regarding kids’ wellbeing*
- *Safety as a human right*
- *Community responsibility and involvement in creating safe environments*

The meeting adjourned at noon.