



Safety and Emergency Management Update

November 5, 2014

Agenda

- Department Overview
- Historical and Current statistics
- Emergency Planning and Training
- Facilities Upgrades
- Rapid Response
- OC Spray Feedback Process

Department Overview

Staff

- Chief and Deputy Chief
- 1 Civilian Clerk
- 2 Captains
- 4 Lieutenants
- 14 Sergeants
- 55 Patrol Officers

Budget

- Approximately \$3.9 Million

Deployment

- 8 mobile Superior Officers
- 67 officers assigned to schools
 - 46 high schools, middle schools and K-8s
- Some Officers also have secondary assignments to elementary schools to assist with dismissal

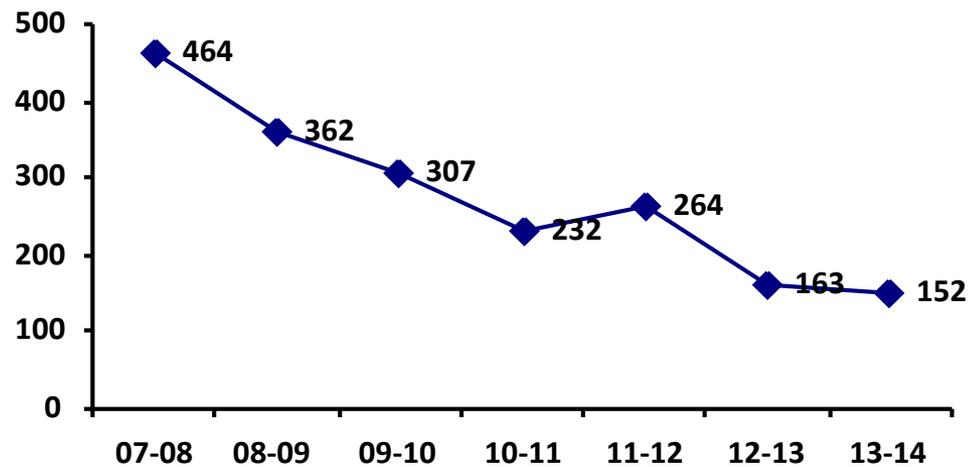


Historical and Current statistics

Historical Incident Data

Year	Incidents
2007 - 2008	4543
2008 - 2009	4462
2009 - 2010	4316
2010 - 2011	4019
2011 -2012	4268
2012 - 2013	3952
2013 - 2014	3591
2014	537

The number of arrests and incidents in BPS schools is decreasing – falling from 464 in the 2007-08 school year to 152 in the 2013-14 school year. The number of incident reports filed has also dropped significantly. Both trends mean that School Police Officers can spend more time in schools interacting with students and staff and less time on paperwork.





Emergency Planning and Training

Emergency Preparedness

- Each school has a safety plan that is unique to the building and aligned with best practices (including the procedures for evacuations)
- BPS safety officials meet with each new school leader at the start of the year to discuss the school's safety plan and review procedures
- Each school completes two safe mode trainings and four fire drills per year
- Two years ago, BPS used grant funding to update flip charts outlining emergency procedures; each safety team member and all classroom teachers receive charts so they know what to do in an emergency

Active Shooter Training

- In collaboration with Boston Police and the City Office of Emergency Management BPS held an initial training in August 2014 for Principals and Headmasters
- Trainings will be ongoing this Fall through February for other school administrators and safety teams

Facilities Upgrades

Safety Assessment and Investments

- After the tragedy at Sandy Hook, BPS inventoried the safety needs of our facilities and established a multi-phase approach to address
- Upgrades are focused on installing key card access systems (to avoid propped doors) and CCTV security cameras. **\$2.4 million in investments** have assisted BPS in having 110 of our schools to have key card access systems.
- In addition, replacement of interior doors and door hardware continues as needed to ensure that doors are secure and can be locked

Future Investments

- Phase III of key card access will begin this spring to install the card system at the remaining schools
- Fire alarm system upgrades
- PA systems
- Additional CCTV systems



Rapid Response

- Boston School Police has **mobile units** that are able to respond quickly with back-up support to schools, especially schools where there may not be a permanent officer stationed.
- Starting this school year, School Police Officers have **direct radio contact with Boston Police**. This includes new radios for Superior Officers and officers in buildings where there may have been difficulty with previous radio connections.
 - Any School Police Officer can hit a button and be patched in directly to the BPD citywide channel in case of emergency.
- As part of the strong partnership between School Police and BPD, school leaders and their safety teams will participate in **active shooter trainings** through BPD. The BPS safety team has worked with BPD to ensure that all parties are clear about their roles and responsibilities in this situation, should it ever arise.

Partnerships

Key Partners

- BPS Students and Staff
 - Boston Police Department
 - Boston Police/School Unit
 - Transit Police
 - Boston Centers for Youth and Families
 - Suffolk County District Attorney's Office
 - Suffolk County Probation
 - Youth Connect
 - Boston Public Health Commission
 - BPS Counseling & Intervention Center
 - Council of Great City Schools
- The Department of Safety Services will continue to strengthen its partnerships with other groups working on student safety, including parents, student organizations, and community-based organizations in Boston and nationally.

OC Spray Background and Feedback Process

Context

- In 2006, it was negotiated that BPS would develop a policy to permit Boston School Police Officers to carry OC (pepper) spray. This policy would clarify training necessary, conditions to obtain and use the spray, and protocols after use.
- Boston School Police are granted powers by Boston Police under rule 400A. Therefore, they must comply with all rules and regulations of Boston Police including rule 304, which is the use of non-lethal force.
- In 2012, this contract issue resurfaced after district discussions on how to improve safety in the district.
- The district worked collaboratively with the Boston Police and the two Boston School Police Unions to begin establishing a draft policy, lifted direction from the Boston Police rule 304 on the use of non-lethal force guidelines, to use as a foundation for community engagement and discussion.
- BPS has embarked on a process to obtain feedback from stakeholders as to whether or not the district should adopt a policy, and if appropriate, develop the policy based on stakeholder feedback.

OC Spray Background & Feedback Process

Process Steps

- On October 22, 2014, the district initiated a series of five community forums to solicit feedback from the community regarding the development of a policy.
- Upcoming forum dates:
 - **Thursday, November 6:** 6 PM – 8 PM at Hyde Park Education Complex Auditorium, 655 Metropolitan Ave.
 - **Thursday, November 13:** 6 PM – 8 PM at West Roxbury Education Complex Auditorium, 1205 VFW Parkway
- At the conclusion of the community forums, BPS will hold a series of smaller **focus group discussions with stakeholders**, including but not limited to students, parents, teachers, school administrators, community based organizations, & elected officials. Focus groups will run through December 2014.
- A summary of the feedback will be prepared and shared publicly.
- BPS district leadership will review feedback to inform the Superintendent's decision whether or not to develop a policy and bring forth a recommendation to the School Committee for consideration.

OC Spray Feedback to Date

- We have held three initial meetings with approximately 70 people in total attendance. Participants were primarily students, teachers, and parents.
- We have received feedback via a new email established: safety@bostonpublicschools.org and have fielded other emails and calls from various constituents.
- The overall feedback from participants to date, is that BPS should not develop such a policy.
- Overall, we are hearing three main themes from the feedback:
 - Is this a necessary tool to protect students?
 - How will BPS School Police ensure that OC spray would only be used to protect students against outside assailants?
 - Health concerns related to OC Spray
- Some participants indicated that if BPS were to move forward, specific language should be used so that OC spray can not be used on students and limit its use to trespassers and outside events where more of the public attend (i.e. athletic contests).