

# Michigan School Safety Commission

## Minutes – July 25, 2019

The first meeting of the Michigan School Safety Commission was held on Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 7150 Harris Drive, Dimondale, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Col. Joseph Gasper. Roll call was taken by Ms. Chelsea Deckler.

The following commission members were present:

- Col. Joseph Gasper
- Mr. Kyle Guerrant, on behalf of Michigan Department of Education
- Mr. Nicholas Dent
- Mr. Larry Johnson
- Mr. Brian Guard
- Ms. Patricia Kovacs
- Chief Paul Lauria was present on the phone

Staff Present:

- Ms. Nancy Becker Bennett
- Ms. Chelsea Deckler

The following guests were present:

- Mr. Steve Beatty
- Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske
- Mr. Tim Bourgeois
- Sgt. Chris Gerard
- Mr. Dan DiBardino

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Self-introductions were made by those present.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Larry Johnson made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Motion was supported by Mr. Brian Gard. The agenda was approved as presented.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Selection of Chair – Col. Joseph Gasper**

Members of the commission voted via paper ballot for a chairperson. Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske was selected. Lt. Colonel Kelenske will represent the Michigan State Police on behalf of Colonel Gasper and will serve as the chairperson.

#### **B. Charge of the Commission – Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske**

Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske discussed the priorities of the commission as set forth in Public Act 548 of 2018. Governor Whitmer's Executive Office has reviewed a copy of the final recommendations of the School Safety Task Force and ongoing discussions will continue to take place. Any direction from the Executive Office will be provided back to the commission.

#### **C. Overview of Legal Considerations – Mr. Steve Beatty**

Mr. Steve Beatty provided the commission with an overview of the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

#### **D. Adopt Commission Bylaws – Mr. Steve Beatty**

Mr. Steve Beatty provided an overview of the draft bylaws for the commission, which were drafted consistent with Public Act 548 of 2018.

Mr. Larry Johnson made a motion to adopt the bylaws as drafted. Ms. Patricia Kovacs supported the motion. The bylaws were approved and adopted.

E. Legislative Update – Sgt. Chris Gerard

Sgt. Chris Gerard provided an overview of the legislation that was passed and became law affecting the School Safety Commission, including Public Act 548 of 2018 which created and governs the School Safety Commission. Copies of the legislation reviewed were provided to the members of the commission.

F. Office of School Safety – Ms. Nancy Becker Bennett

Ms. Nancy Becker Bennett was appointed the Director of the Office of School Safety by Col. Joseph Gasper.

Ms. Becker Bennett provided an overview of the Office of School Safety (OSS) and the relationship between the commission and the OSS. The OSS has been charged with creating model practices for determining school safety measures in conjunction with the commission. The OSS has developed a [website](#) with resources and summaries of school safety updates.

The OSS is required to provide a report to the commission on a quarterly basis detailing incidents of crime or attempted crime that occurred on school premises, school-related vehicles, or at school-sponsored activities. The commission reviewed a draft report and provided feedback on the desired format for future reports.

Within 90-days of the creation of the School Safety Commission, the commission must provide recommendations to the OSS. Commission members were tasked with identifying the top ten priorities from the final School Safety Task Force Report to provide as the first recommendation to the OSS.

G. MCOLES Update – Mr. Tim Bourgeois

Mr. Tim Bourgeois provided an update regarding the steps the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) has taken since the recommendations were submitted by the School Safety Task Force. MCOLES is working to classify individuals involved in school safety into three separate tiers and identify specific training requirements for each tier.

**Public Comments**

No comments were received.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Larry Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.