

Public Information Release
January 11, 2013

The recent tragedy at Sandy Hook has caused everyone to reflect upon the safety of our children and our school staff. We want to assure you that together in partnership the Norwalk School District is closing scrutinizing our facilities, procedures, training and staffing, classroom-by-classroom, and school-by-school. We know that safety is our greatest responsibility.

The School Resource Officer is a one of the keys to deterrence and a rapid response to violence if needed. This program began in partnership between the Norwalk Police Department and the Norwalk School District in 2000, through a federal grant and today we have a police officer fulltime in the Norwalk High School/ Middle School complex and a part – time Officer assigned to Lakewood and Oviat Elementary. These officers are trained, certified and armed. They also maintain instant communications with our Dispatch Center. Those Officers are trained and conduct investigations, teach classes, help develop school safety procedures, they also counsel parents and students when concerns arise. They work as the primary liaison between the Police Department and the Schools.

We have also taken steps to significantly limit public access into our school facilities, trained the police officers and staff on procedures and conducted training exercises to evaluate our efforts. We have also made advanced information available to the agencies that would likely respond to help us. That will be updated as well.

The “Watch Dog” program and the “Parent Teachers Organization” have also been helpful to get another presence in our schools. These are parents that have volunteered to spend a portion of their time assisting the school staff within each school.

The Mayor and Police Chief have also met with their counterparts in the metro area to discuss these same issues, the sharing of information and how we might better work together to make our schools more secure.

Our School District and Police Department will continue to move forward in partnership and we are pledged to provide for the safety of our students and our staff.

Denny Wulf
Superintendent

Eddie H. Kuhl
Police Chief