



## ***SCHOOL SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL***

### **MEETING MINUTES**

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Meeting Date: [5/31/2013](#)

Meeting Location: [Legislative Office Building](#)

Approval: [6/25/2013](#)

Recorded By: [Jason Crisco](#)

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## 1 ATTENDANCE

Name	Title	Department/Location	Present
Donald J. DeFronzo	Commissioner	DAS	Y
Stefan Pryor	Commissioner	SDE	Y
Pasquale J. Salemi	Deputy Commissioner	DCS	Y
William Shea	Deputy Commissioner	DESPP	Y
John Woodmansee	Education Consultant		Y
Richard E. Morris	Dir. Public Safety & Emergency		Y
Frank J. Costello	Structural Engineer		Y
Ronald Jakubowski	Former Asst. Superintendent of Schools for Operations and Facilities		Y
Steven Waznia	Firefighter		Y
Adam Byington	Police Officer		Y
Irene Roman	Public School teacher		Y

## 2 MEETING LOCATION

Building: Legislative Office Building, Hartford CT

Room: 1A

## 3 MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: 10:00am

Meeting Actual Start: 10:00am

## 4 AGENDA

- Opening Remarks by Chair
  - Chairman DeFronzo opened the meeting by introducing himself to the council. He mentioned that this first meeting will be organizational in nature and then welcomed all members to the School Safety Infrastructure Council. Chairman DeFronzo then gave a very brief overview of the legislative charge of the SSIC and the legislation that created the council. He mentioned that the council has a big job ahead of them and short time to complete its task. Members were notified that CTN would be taping and filming the meeting.
- Introduction of Council Members
  - Chairman DeFronzo asked each member to introduce him/herself. Commissioner Pryor introduced himself and stated that it's important that as high standards for school security are met, we must also maintain an environment that's good for students and staff. Deputy Commissioner Shea introduced himself and explained how DESPP brings an emergency management perspective to the table. Officer Byington is currently the School Resource officer at Fairfield Ludlow High school. He's here today representing all police personnel within the state who've taken on much greater roles with school security. Mr. Morris introduced himself as the Director of Safety and Emergency for the town of East Lyme. Mr. Waznia, a firefighter from Berlin, looks forward to serving on the council

and is here to help ensure that the standards created by the SSIC don't conflict with current regulations. Mr. Jakubowski introduced himself and spoke on his past experience with school safety and construction. Mr. Costello, a structural engineer, looks forward to serving on the council and looking at ways to harden school entry ways. Ms. Irene Roman, a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher from Waterbury, has classroom experience and knowledge of maintaining a good social climate in context of school safety needs. Mr. Woodmansee, an Education Consultant on Env., health and Safety, looks forward to serving on the committee and ensuring that the standards the council produces work for all schools, are effective and keep them safe.

- Introduction of Staff
  - Chairman DeFronzo introduced the council staff members, their role with the SSIC and their titles.
- Review Legislative Charge and Objectives of Council
  - Chairman DeFronzo gave a brief overview of each section from Public Act 13-3 pertaining to the School Safety Infrastructure Council. A more detailed overview of these sections by the Office of Legislative Research can be found here - [OLR Bill Analysis](#).
  - Chairman DeFronzo then asked Dep. Commissioner Shea to give an overview of Sec. 84-85 concerning the School Security Public Grant Program. All local schools may apply for the grant program. All eligible items can be found in the DEMHS School Security Grant Application Package, found at - [2013 School Security Infrastructure Program Website](#). Priority is given to schools with the greatest needs based on the school security assessment and rank. \$5 million is available now, with the opportunity to add an additional \$10 million later.
  - Chairman DeFronzo then gave a brief overview of the NCEF's checklist found at the end of the grant package and encouraged members to review it, as it may help to develop the SSIC standards. Craig Russell, Director of School and State Construction Services for DCS, was then asked to explain the current DCS school construction grant process to the council.
  - Craig Russell gave a brief summary of the current process. There is a priority list for all projects, with 16 different project types. Some of these projects do include a security component. The level of grant reimbursement is based off of the wealth of the community. There are approximately \$800 million in school construction projects, \$600 million of which are reimbursable. Each project goes through a design review process, which has guidelines specific to building and fire code. There are currently no official school safety standards, only guidelines.
  - In the context of Craig Russell's presentation, Chairman DeFronzo mentioned that a lot of discretion is given to school districts on a local level in the current process. One of the important considerations that this council should keep in mind throughout its work is the level of local control that should be maintained versus creating more rigid standards that all districts or schools must follow.
  - Craig Russell was asked by council member Morris if any consideration is given for back up plans loss of power for auto locks etc during the review process. Craig mentioned that this wasn't something they currently look at.
  - Chairman DeFronzo underscored the scope of the council's work by mentioning that last year, 34 schools were provided grants under the existing DCS program (Chapter 173), totaling approximately \$800 million. He noted that there are 1300 schools in CT, many of which may be renovated in order to meet the SSIC standards.
  - Chairman DeFronzo thought it would be helpful to the council to bring in Joe Cassidy, Acting State Building Inspector; to discuss weather-related items and building code. He'd like to get Joe in for the next meeting in June. In addition, Deputy Shea suggested that the council add two more presentations: one from DESPP's "All Hazards" planning group and one from its Critical Infrastructure Group.
- Plans to Achieve Legislative Charge

- Chairman DeFronzo gave a brief overview of the materials provided in the packets for each council member.
- Chairman DeFronzo then discussed a Proposed Timeline for the council. The council discussed the idea of conducting three public sessions at various locations throughout the state. The first public session is to involve 3-5 individuals who are design and architectural professionals. They would testify on school safety infrastructure issues. Commissioner Pryor expressed concern over the size of the second public session involving public officials. The council discussed the option of splitting this public session into two groups. One for Superintendents, teachers, other school staff, professional associations and the two teacher unions and a second that would include elected officials and first responders. A third hearing is also planned for the general public, but may also include public officials and first responders. The council did not make any final decisions on this issue.
- Chairman DeFronzo then discussed the work that will be conducted by SSIC in the fall. The SSIC plans on having a preliminary draft of standards by November.
- **Publication of Council's Work**
  - Chairman DeFronzo gave a brief description of the SSIC website and provided the link to all members - <http://das.ct.gov/SSIC>.
  - All materials provided to the council will be made available on the SSIC website.
- **Time and Date of Next Meeting**
  - The next SSIC meeting is to be scheduled for late June.
  - A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pryor and seconded by Deputy Commissioner Shea.

## 5 MEETING END

Meeting Schedule End: 12:00pm

Meeting Actual End: 11:00am

## 6 NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: To be determined.