

School Safety Presentation at the PTO Meeting

Mrs. Persick led a presentation on school safety at the PTO meeting on February 5th. She and Hynes's specially-trained school resource officer, Officer McClendon, described the school's physical security features and current safety measures. Special guest NOPD Sergeant S. Joseph explained NOPD's protocols for intruder situations (*i.e.*, enter the building immediately to neutralize the threat) and provided information on certain safety programs and drills he is involved with at Hynes. Mrs. Persick also advised on the implementation of safety training such as student drills and "Stop the Bleed" training for teachers. An eighth-grade student spoke on his experience with a voluntary intruder drill that he found empowering and impactful. The Hynes Safety Committee (comprised of Hynes staff, teachers, administrators, students, and parents) is researching and developing age-appropriate scripts and messaging to provide to students and families. Hynes will provide advance notice to families before conducting any drills involving children. The drills will resemble familiar safety drills with a "Run, Hide, and Fight" focus. Hynes does not intend to conduct a full simulation with the children. The school plans to launch its student safety awareness campaign with the "I'm Not Scared...I'm Prepared" book and related materials, which were previewed at the meeting.