

Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SSARS)

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Background

***DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN
STUDENT & STAFF WELLNESS
GOAL:***

Improve the overall climate of our schools to improve student interactions and to provide a safer more productive environment for our students and staff members.

- Enhance the response plan to address crisis situations and improve the security of the school environment
- Enhance the options available to support student wellness

- ❑ To meet this newly added goal of the Strategic Plan, the district has engaged in a number of initiatives to ensure a comprehensive approach to keeping our students safe.
- ❑ Many of these steps were shared as part of the [November 1, 2018 K-12 Counseling Department presentation](#) to the BOE
- ❑ Specifically, district administrators shared some of the components of the Sandy Hook Promise that have been implemented in our schools including: Say Hello, Say Something, & Know the Signs
- ❑ Also indicated that the district was committed to investigating and researching the Say Something Anonymous Reporting component as requested by SHP community members earlier in the Fall of 2018

Steps Taken

- ❑ Researched Sandy Hook Promise Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SSARS)
 - ❑ How does the system operate?
 - ❑ Other districts using this program?
- ❑ Researched other anonymous reporting tools or resources
 - ❑ Connected with colleagues, local districts, and available data points from other states/programs
 - ❑ What do they use? What is their experience?
- ❑ Internal review of our district needs and data points
 - ❑ Analysis and comparison of HIB reporting process and frequency of other student concerns
 - ❑ Current use of anonymous link to HIBster
 - ❑ Discussions with BHPD

Findings

- ❑ Say Something Anonymous Reporting Systems (SSARS)
 - ❑ Currently has limited usage in NJ
 - ❑ New program does not have available data regarding effectiveness
 - ❑ Program makes use of regional call center to evaluate and route anonymous reports to district or local PD
- ❑ Reporting tools and Research
 - ❑ Union County: the majority of districts do not utilize an anonymous reporting system
 - ❑ Other anonymous reporting programs are more common in NJ
 - ❑ More commonly used anonymous reporting systems route information to school officials first (StopIt, Anonymous Alerts, P3 Campus, Now Force)
- ❑ Internal Review
 - ❑ Based upon the evaluation of our data and conversations with neighboring districts, it strongly appears that we have created a culture that encourages reporting and has developed a trust in our investigative process.
 - ❑ BHPS has a strong police relationship supporting school climate, safety and security
 - ❑ The anonymous reporting capabilities of HIBster, though currently not easily accessible, has potential for expanded use and functionality as an internal tool.

Recommendation

- ❑ There is an insufficient amount of actual school experience with SSARS for us to properly evaluate it and recommend it for use in BHPS at this time
- ❑ There is insufficient reason, and a danger of potential abuse, to adopt a reporting system that funnels incident reports to an outside entity rather than BHPS officials
- ❑ While we do not recommend the implementation of SSARS, we continue to be fully committed to the ongoing development and implementation of other facets of the Sandy Hook Promise and other initiatives that support a healthy, positive school culture
- ❑ An anonymous reporting system, under the full control of BHPS officials, might provide an additional layer of assurance that any potential threat to student well-being is brought to the attention of the district
- ❑ **We recommend the implementation of a well-publicized, HIBster-based tool that is linked with the BHPS app on a trial basis**
 - ❑ **This trial would be communicated to students, staff, and parents at the secondary level and begin in September of 2019**
 - ❑ **Include reminder to direct imminent threats to 911 and BHPD**
 - ❑ **Provide links for available resources for students and parents**

Questions?