



Fatal Friday Night Lights: A Case Study of Response and Recovery

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Jeannette, PA



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About Me

Mr. Matthew Jones currently serves as the Superintendent of Schools in the Jeannette City School District. Mr. Jones is going into his fifth year as the Superintendent but has served over 20 years with the school district in a variety of positions including teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Education and Superintendent. Mr. Jones brings a unique perspective to the superintendent's chair as a former Volunteer Fire Assistant Fire Chief, EMT-B, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Swift Water/Ice Rescue Instructor Trainer and founding member and rescue technician with the PA Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PA-HART). He has experienced a myriad of critical incidents from both the operations and command perspective. As an instructor trainer for the PA Fish and Boat Commission and PA-HART Mr. Jones has been afforded the opportunity to teach and share in a variety of settings including local fire and EMS stations to large metropolitan task forces in Pittsburgh, PA and Washington DC. During his tenure, the district has experienced unfounded bomb and shooting threats, weather emergencies, evacuations and a fatal after school shooting on school grounds. The ability to reference his emergency services experiences with the management of students and school personnel has given Mr. Jones a strong foundation to mitigate school district critical incidents.



About Me

Ms. Shelley Muto, a native of the Jeannette City School District, has worked in the district since 2006. Throughout her time in the district, she held multiple titles, including coach, teacher, assistant principal, principal, and is currently serving as the Director of Pupil Services.

As a building principal, she was responsible for the management of both non-emergency and emergency incidents occurring at the building level. In her current position as Director of Student Services she is a lead on the emergency operations team for the School District. In this role, Ms. Muto is responsible for primary district communications, facilitating student and staff therapeutic supports, and overseeing district nursing services.



About this Session

Session Takeaways

- Learn the unique response required and lessons from an incident that occurred in an open air stadium which engaged home and visiting students and community and visiting patrons.
- Discuss training protocols essential to ancillary staff and employees
- Gain an understanding of the human impact, as it relates to staff, their families, community members, and participating school districts.

Background Information

- Jeannette McKee Stadium: Park Street, Jeannette PA
- McKee Elementary K-6 campus
- September 6, 2019
- 2nd Home Game of Year
- Rivalry Game:
 - Approximately 4 minutes remaining
 - Jeannette 48-0



Initial Report

- While escorting students from the facility Principal Joseph Baker is witness to a shooting on school property at the stadium top gate.
- Mr. Baker calls on the district radio system “shots fired” prompting response from JPD and District Administration.

Cue Video



Scene: Top Gate

- Report Shooter fled the scene and is located in neighborhood above the stadium
- One patient with visible gunshot wound to the chest
- Superintendent / High School Principal / Elementary Principal / Athletic Director / Maintenance / Jeannette Police Department X 2



Sequence of Events

- Multi – Agency response begins prompted by call of “school shooting”
- Multiple calls to 911 from witnesses and Mrs. White, Elementary School Assistant Principal
 - Police Departments - Jeannette City, Penn Township, North Huntingdon Township, Manor, Greensburg and Pennsylvania State Police
 - EMS – Jeannette (Station 206), Penn Township (Station 225), Adamsburg Rescue 14 (Station 320) and Mutual Aid
 - Fire – Jeannette City (Station 112), Penn Boro (Station 94), High Park (Station 61)

Cue Video



Sequence of Events

- Director of Student Services – Establishes Communication and Command from Press Box.
- Public address announcements to evacuate stadium opposite shooting
- Attempt to communicate to field via coaching headsets
- Evacuation of facility begins and lasts several minutes
 - Players
 - Band
 - Cheerleaders
 - Spectators
 - Staff

Cue Video



Timeline of Events (Friday, 9/6/19)

- 21:20 Shooting Occurs
- 21:20-21:25 Evacuation of Stadium
- 21:45 Communicate with School Board (Vice-President)
- 22:00 Joint Command / Transfer of Command to Superintendent
- 22:15 Recording of Events & Press Statement
- 21:25-23:30 Emergency Services Activity at Stadium
 - JPD
 - FDCJ
 - JEMS
 - PSP
 - Westmoreland County Detectives

Timeline of Events (Friday, 9/6/19)

- 23:30 Leadership Team Meeting in McKee
- 23:30 Witness Statements to Law Enforcement
- 23:40 Media Press Release
- 23:45 - 00:15 Leadership Team Debrief – Statements
- 00:15 – 01:30 Prioritization of Duties
- 01:30 Leadership Team Exits for Home

Timeline of Events (Saturday, 9/7/19)

- 06:30 Superintendent meets JPD at Scene and reports to Office
- 08:00 Initial Facebook post – positive community message
- 08:30 Leadership Team begins arriving at Central Administration
- 09:00 Division of Labor Determination
 - Student Needs
 - Staff Needs
 - Press / Community Releases
 - Available Resources
 - School Counselors/ DCORT
 - EAP (Mazzitti & Sullivan / Uniserv Rep - PSEA)



Jeannette City School District

Published by IG Jeannette City School District
September 7, 2019 · Instagram ·

The terrible events of last evening do no reflect the heart of our community, it's citizens and certainly not our beloved school district. These are some visual reminders of what makes our school district so special. #jayhawkpride



667

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Jess Stadtmiller
Just such a crappy world that we live in.

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0

3-Second
Video Views

0

1-Minute
Video Views

0:00

Average Minutes
Viewed



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Hide Post

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24248

Total Reach

24248

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0

Paid Reach

45488

Total
Impressions

45488

Organic
Impressions

0

Paid
Impressions



Serena Sarah Pape I am proud to say that I am a Jayhawk. Last night I saw so many people band together & make sure every band kid was accounted for, football kids were in the locker room & that everyone left safely. I saw a community coming together to leave the stadium the same way they came in. There was no child left uncomfortable & everyone was asking if we were okay.
#JayhawkStrong

Like · Reply · Message · 25w

8



Jeri Phillips Once a Jayhawk, always a Jayhawk. The community will get through this & be stronger because of it. ❤️💙💙💙 My prayers go out to all the kids & families.

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7



B.j. Bortz School staff did a great job with the situation. Law enforcement was there in a flash!! Great job on both sides.

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6



Pearl Kolbosky Jayhawk Nation proud to be a part of it. Thank God for the safety of all our kids. Thankful for the fast acts of Administration to move everyone out of the stadium quickly and safely. The news keeps saying there was a stampede. But from how I exited there was no stampede. Just people moving quickly and checking on each other making sure they were all safe.

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11

Timeline of Events (Saturday, 9/7/19)

- 11:15 Statement to Community Released
 - Remind 101
 - School District Facebook / Instagram
 - School District Twitter Account
- 11:55 Superintendent seeks assistance from colleagues from surrounding districts
- 09:45 – 12:25 Leadership
 - Monday Plan Including Timelines and Division of Labor Finalized
 - Monday Security Detail / JPD
- 12:35 Statement Released to staff
- 13:00 Staff Released



Jeannette City School District

Published by Shelley Marie [P] · September 7, 2019 ·

Like Page

With pride and admiration,
JCSD



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Assistant Superintendent

Ryan Rayson
Athletic Director

Dear JCSD Parent and Community,

The most important part of any school and community is the children, and today my heart aches for those children who experienced the events of Friday night. We can only take solace in the fact that all of our students are safe and were not involved in this horrific, senseless act of violence. The terrible events of Friday do not reflect the heart of our community, the citizen, and certainly not our school district.

We want to start by thanking all of the Jayhawk fans for their cooperation and courage throughout the incident and evacuation. As an administrative team we have already started to review our safety protocols and procedures implemented during the incident to ensure that all precautions taken were in the best interest of our community, students, and visitors. As we plan upcoming events, we will be collaborating with the Jeannette Police Department to assess and implement any additional measures or improvements needed to help prevent future incidents from occurring. Any changes will be announced in a timely manner in preparation for your attendance.

School Counselors and administrators will be available Monday and throughout the week for any students or staff who may need assistance. The School District is working in cooperation with local and county officials with their investigation. The District would like to thank the community for the support and encouragement. We will not let the actions of one define us all.

With pride and admiration,

Mr. Matthew Jones, Superintendent
Jeannette City School District



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1

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0

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1

On Shares

60

Comments

16

On Post

44

On Shares

106

Shares

105

On Post

1

On Shares

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713

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0

Link Clicks

994

Other Clicks

NEGATIVE FEEDBACK

1 Hide Post

0 Hide All Posts

0 Report as Spam

0 Unlike Page

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Timeline of Events (Sunday, 9/8/19)

- 10:00 – 18:00 Leadership Team Begins Correspondence (text, google documents and telephone)
 - Director of Student Services / Superintendent
 - Resources for Student and Staff
 - Documents Reviewed with Leadership Team
 - Confirmations of Counseling Staff and Cancel DCORT
 - Communicate with sending Superintendents
 - Confirm JPD security plan for Monday morning

Monday, 9/9/19, Agenda

Administration Staff and Counseling Staff reports to the Jr/Sr High

- 15 Counselors and Administration from 6 local school districts volunteered to support our staff and students
 - Introductions and logistical information
 - Review the scenario from Friday
 - Family impacted from both sides
 - May be dealing with grief and anger depending on the family
 - Impact on student witnesses
 - Trauma as it relates to the report of a shooter
 - Trauma as it relates to the evacuation

Monday, 9/9/19, Agenda

- Inform staff of the protocol for the day
 - Triage / Record keeping (Notification that student will be arriving)
 - One-On-One
 - Session End (Where do they send student?)
 - Follow up as needed (How do they report?)
 - Student and Staff Meetings in the Morning:
 - Validate their expertise: Volunteers to share with staff regarding situation
- Focus on Faculty
 - Mandated attendance at group session if you were in attendance or impacted by the incident
 - Secondary: Morning
 - McKee : Afternoon
 - Record of those that will be attending and groups/coverage schedule will be created by administration. Employee will be notified of when/where

Learn the unique response required and lessons from an incident which occurred in an open air stadium which engaged home and visiting students and community and visiting patrons.

- Increased security protocols
 - No re-entry, No book bags, bags subject to searches, Restricted parking
 - Limited gates for general admission (1 entry point)
 - Added Metal detectors
 - Hired a security firm
 - Security is assigned to all entry/egress points
 - Assigned district staff to locations (such as press box and locker rooms)
 - Pre-Game announcements which identified all exits within the stadium complex

Learn the unique response required and lessons learned from an incident in an open air stadium that engages home and visiting students and community and visiting patrons.

- Added cameras
- Added lighting throughout the stadium emphasizing entrance and egress areas
- Purchased iPads for real-time mobile security surveillance
- Wifi access at the stadium complex
- Increase of communication devices
- Badging and uniforms of all security and administrators
- Assigned district staff specific responsibilities (such as press box and locker rooms)

Discuss training protocols essential to ancillary staff and employees

Student Safety, Personal Safety, and Reunification Area

Marching band/Cheerleaders

Coaching staff

Press Box staff

Game staff

Volunteers

Gain an understanding of the human impact, as it relates to staff, their families, community members, and participating school districts.

- **Have a personal plan and a professional plan**
 - Know your role and those expectations
 - Know the team members role
- **Have a plan for your impacted staff**
 - Employees present with their families
 - Employee assistance program
 - PSEA (State Education Association)
- **Transparency with the community**
 - Grieve with them, acknowledge the community spirit, accentuate the positives
 - Be resilient, share your plans, and return to normal (Following Friday Night)
 - Provide information on personal safety

Reminders

- Access to the presentation
- Evaluations
- Social Media



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