

For Immediate Release

Monday, January 10, 2011

Oakwood City Schools

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Mr. Sam Davis, Board Vice-President

### Oakwood Board of Education Approves Security Enhancements

After receiving formal recommendations from the Superintendent's Facilities Advisory Committee in December, and based on extensive internal review, the Board of Education moved unanimously on Monday to enact security plan modifications and enhancements for the school district. The approved changes to the current security plan will affect district procedures and include facility modifications.

In the area of personnel and procedures, the district will modify existing policy to include photo ID badges for all staff that will be worn during normal working hours. As in the past, all visitors and volunteers will be reminded of the requirement to sign-in at the office during school hours and wear an identification badge while on school property. Additional training will take place for staff and students regarding proper security procedures. Further, the Board is authorizing a review of building security procedures biannually to replace the current annual review.

Security enhancements will also include facility modifications. All entrance doors in the district will be "mapped" and numbered. This will allow for immediate identification by school and city personnel. At both elementary schools and Lange School, all doors will be equipped with electronic alarm and monitoring hardware, with major entrances connected to a central monitoring station in the office at each school. Through this upgrade, any door that is not properly closed will immediately register either through central monitoring or a local alarm. In keeping with current district security procedures, all doors (at all buildings) are to remain locked throughout the school day, with the exception of one main entrance.

The Board also approved the study of facility changes at Harman School to provide immediate access to the school office upon entering the building. Currently, one may enter Harman's main entrance and walk past several classrooms prior to arriving at the office. The Board is reviewing design options that will prevent a visitor from accessing the building without first arriving at the office to sign-in.

"The security enhancements are positive, common sense approaches, based on input from facilities professionals, parents, city police officers, and administrators," commented Sam Davis, Board Vice President. He added, "The focus is slanted toward our elementary schools, but could move to the junior high and high school as our regular security reviews continue."