

■ SECURITY

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member Shannon Fairholm. “One thing that a lot of people aren’t aware is that Sandy Hook was actually ranked as one of the most secure schools in the nation. If someone wants to get in, no matter how good of a school and no matter how good the security, they’re going to get in.”

A lone gunman broke into Sandy Hook Elementary School the morning of Dec. 14, 2012, and killed 26 people – 20 young children and six adults – before taking his own life.

“I am grateful for the team that has come up with these things for us to take a look at and there is always room for improvement,” Fairholm said.

Modern intercom and telephone systems have been put in place in recent years at the high school and middle school.

“The communication (system) is very weak at Austin and Jolley,” Froke said. “That’s definitely a security issue. On a day-to-day basis, even, when we’re working with children, you don’t want a teacher leaving a classroom to come to the office to seek assistance from the principal. It’s best if they can pick up a phone and call the office.”

At the top of the

superintendent’s list of suggested security upgrades is the addition of interior locks on classroom doors.

“Right now, we have door locks that lock on the outside, and they don’t lock from the inside,” he said. “In the case of an emergency, when we have a lock-down drill, the teacher has to fumble with the keys, get outside the door, and lock the door from the outside.

“We have that in all of our buildings, and it would be better if we could have an interior lock on all of those classroom doors,” Froke told the board. “I’ve contacted a contractor to go through and give us a quote on all of those, and I’ll be bringing that to you to see what you think of that.”

Safety issues have been a topic of discussion at recent meetings the superintendent has had with the district’s teachers. Such input has revealed some doors on buildings that needed only minor repairs to their latches, while some doors have been “sprung,” Froke said, and need to be pushed hard before they will latch.

“We have to look at those as well,” he said.

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