

Attention: Board of Education
From: Shongum Parents

January 14, 2014

We will speak for ourselves in saying that our feelings of fear and anxiety are heightened every day when we send our first grade daughters to school. It is very sad that our society has to live in fear, and that the normal school day of 8:40-3:08 is no longer every parent's "safe zone" to send their children. Over the last 10 years, school shootings have increased. Since Sandy Hook last December, that small, average town will never be the same, nor will many small, average towns like Randolph. That said, a clear comparison can be made between the two communities, seeing similarities not only in median household income but the populations and rural environments. Also, there are risks and threats upon us, like the Ironia School vandalism that happened on December 23, 2013. Staff members were confronted with disturbing words and a symbol painted on the side of the building that may have been associated with a school shooting in Florida. In addition, last February Goddard School was placed on partial lockdown when they found a threatening tweet made by a Randolph high school student.

As parents we are wondering what can we do to make our children safe, guilt stricken that we hope it won't be our school hit next, and just not at ease as we send our children off. Our daughters are the first in our families entering the school system and it saddens us greatly that we even have to put the words "SCHOOL and SHOOTING" in the same sentence. That being said, that is our reality. We are confident the Board of Education, the PTO, the school staff, and the parents ALL truly want our school to be protected and safe. What we are proposing is easy and relatively inexpensive. We are not proposing to put armed guards at the entrance of schools or install bullet proof windows although one day in the future, sadly that might be our reality and we would not complain. We are simply proposing to put a desk, or even a tall wood podium (again inexpensive) in the main lobby area and have either a retired police officer or security guard, a crossing guard or (a real police officer would be wonderful) or simply any reliable, trusting, caring adult who would want to stand tall and greet people as they enter. We will provide the podium or desk if that would be helpful! We would love to propose the idea that someone be present as a "Greeter/Receptionist". It might not stop a mass killer, but it might act as a deterrent or give the school children and staff even 2 extra minutes to be prepared in the ungodly event of a disaster. We feel this is not an unreasonable request to ask that in light of school shootings and tragedies around the world, that we want to feel our school community, the teachers and staff are all doing everything they can despite money, despite politics, to keep our children as safe as possible. In this day and age, having someone 50ft away buzz anyone in just because they said they are John Smith's mother, does not seem to be a form of an adequate safety measure. It would be absolutely wonderful if Shongum has a professional adult GREETING people and checking ID's as each and every person enters and leaves the building throughout the day not just during high alert similar to the middle school and High School have been utilizing in their lobby areas.

An inexpensive and quick fix would be to have someone in the main office or in the school should personally greet visitors/parents and check ID's themselves. We understand the staff in the office is extremely busy and this may not be possible, however we feel the safety of our children, staff, and school should be THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY. Having an 8x11 piece of paper stating the "office is to the left" does not seem to be an adequate safety measure. In speaking with many other parents, people often veer right straight to classrooms freely including ourselves, thus providing the need for a greeter/receptionist stationed in the lobby area.

Our bottom line Plee is for an adult needs to be stationed in the main lobby, greeting people, guiding them to their destinations, and checking ID's etc.

We have a petition formed with many, many signatures, and many more to come. We will not stop pursuing this until action is taken. Sandy Hook happened over a year ago. We were 2 of 15 people present last year at the Fireside Chat given by Mrs. Hernandez about school safety. We appreciate the changes that have been made thus far with the technology in lockdown procedures and drills etc, and also appreciate greatly the principal and occasional police or security guard presence at drop off and pick up, we are pleeing for an ADULT, PROFESSIONAL PRESENCE throughout the term of the school day to greet parents, children as they enter and exit the school lobby area. Sadly it's the age and era we live in. Unfortunately, we can't keep hiding and hoping for the best. Let's be proactive now, rather than waiting for the worst!!! Please, Please, Please, for our children's safety!!

Amy & Michael Brand
23 Lake Shore Drive So

Nancy & Bob Podesta
8 Foxwood Lane

IN SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
Amy & Michael Brand 23 Lake Shore Drive So. Randolph NJ	
Manssa & Lisa Shuster 2 Winding Way Randolph, NJ	
Glenn Shuster 2 Winding Way Randolph NJ	
ANN Anne Mars 12 Holly Dr. Randolph	
Michael Mars 12 Holly Dr. Randolph	
Janine DiCosterzo 4 Mt Pleasant	
Helene Weiman 7 Chestnut Hill Rd	
Jim Zumwalt 16 Sylvia Place Randolph	
SARAH KARAIOS 6 ALEXANDER DR.	
Menahan & Blanchard Ct.	

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
1/6/14 Amy Brand 23 Lake Shore Drive So, Randolph NJ	
Amy & Brian Powl 18 Chestnut Hill Road, Randolph, NJ	

IN SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
Amy & Michael Brand 23 Lake Shore Drive So, Randolph NJ	
Stacy Trilling 11 Indian Trail Rd	
Katie Laaney 12 Indian Trail Rd	
Patty Carr 6 Blue Fern Lane	
Lori Lemj 2 Blue Fern Lane	
West Tree 11 Indian Trail Rd.	

IN SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF
SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
Amy & Michael Brand 23 Lake Shore Drive So, Randolph NJ	
<i>Melissa Allen 64 Radtke Rd</i>	
<i>Sarah King 7 Cambridge Rd</i>	
<i>Jeff Atchison 64 Radtke Rd</i>	

IN SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
Amy & Michael Brand 23 Lake Shore Drive So, Randolph NJ	JIM HUGGILL + OKSANA MULLIC 36 ASIA LN RANDOLPH 11/14/14
Nancy Podesta 8 Foxwood Lane, Randolph 11/8/14	Jennifer Weinstock 11/2/14 11 Cedar Ridge Ln, Randolph, NJ 07869
Robert Podesta 8 Foxwood Lane, Randolph 11/8/14	Neil Weinstock 11 Cedar Ridge Ln, Randolph, NJ 07869
Robert Podesta 55 Maple Hill Rd Randolph	
Amy Tolle 22 Springhill Rd Randolph	
Jerry Meyer 15 Foxwood Rd Randolph	
SHEEN MADAYAG 27 TIMBER LN. RANDOLPH	
JULIE WILLIAMS 27 TIMBER LN. RANDOLPH	
Chrissy Sunberg 46 Springhill Rd Randolph	
Jonathan Sunberg 46 Springhill Rd Randolph	
TARA BUDAETSKY 28 Springhill Rd Randolph	
Barry Budaetsky 28 Springhill Rd Randolph	
Alla Bukh 11 Pinnacle Point Randolph	
Gene Bukh 11 Pinnacle Pt Randolph	
Michelle HARTH 10 Oak Drive	
Erin Kazella 20 Foxwood Lane	
Angela Jones 14 Chestnut Hill Rd.	
Thomas Jones 14 CHESTNUT HILL Rd	
MARIA SILVA 71 Beech Rd. Randolph	

IN SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF
SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
Amy & Michael Brand 23 Lake Shore Drive So, Randolph NJ	
Amy & Chris Brown 4 Overbrook Rd, Randolph NJ	

SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
1/6/14 Amy Brand 23 Lake Shore Drive So, Randolph NJ	
Christine Kress 24 Tulip Ln. Randolph, NJ 07869	
Paige Piarulli 20 Chestnut Hill Rd, Randolph, NJ 07869	
JEAN PENNYAN 5 Misty Ln Randolph	

IN SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL GREETER IN MAIN LOBBY OF SHONGUM SCHOOL

Name & Street Address	Name & Street Address
Daimee Stadler 55 Forrest Road Randolph,NJ	
Theresa Townsend 1 Forest Hill Road Randolph,NJ	

BOTTOM LINE--An adult needs to be stationed in the main lobby, greeting people, guiding them to their destinations, and checking ID's.

We have a petition formed with many, many signatures, and many more to come. We will not stop pursuing this until action is taken. Sandy Hook happened over a year ago. We were 2 of 15 people present last year at the Fireside Chat given by Mrs. Hernandez about school safety. And still, not much has changed. While we appreciate having the principal and occasional police or security guard presence at drop off and pick up, there should be an ADULT, PROFESSIONAL PRESENCE throughout the term of the school day to greet parents, children as they enter the school. Sadly it's the age and era we live in. Unfortunately, we can't keep hiding and hoping for the best. Let's be PROACTIVE NOW, rather than waiting for the worst!!! Please, Please, Please, for our children's safety!!

Amy & Michael Brand
23 Lake Shore Drive So

Nancy & Bob Podesta
8 Foxwood Lane

Patricia George (Patricia George)