

Spirit Lake School Board Takes Action to Enhance School Safety

SPIRIT LAKE, IA — At its Monday meeting, the Spirit Lake Community School District Board of Directors approved a resolution that will allow up to 10 trained staff (non-teachers) to be armed, carry, or have access to a firearm on school property for the lawful purpose of protecting the district's staff and students.

The resolution applies only to individuals designated by Superintendent Dr. David Smith. These staff members will be thoroughly screened, receive extensive training from professionals, and their names will not be made public.

The policy is allowed under Iowa Code and is fully supported by Dickinson County Sheriff Gregory Baloun and Spirit Lake Chief of Police Shane Brevik.

“As a school district, we have an obligation to protect our students and staff from a possible active shooter situation,” said Dr. Smith. “We know that when these events occur, most of the victims fall within the first few minutes. We have determined the right action to take is to give trained staff members the opportunity to stop a killer as soon as possible. In addition, having this policy in place serves as a deterrent for anyone who might consider entering our schools with the intent to do harm.”

The enhanced safety policy will supplement the other safety features the district has in place, including, but not limited to, locked doors, security cameras, additional mental health supports, and a district resource officer. The district will also continue to utilize its comprehensive safety plan, provide staff and students with age appropriate training, and review other safety measures that add additional layers of security to its facilities.