

**From:** Rochelle Clark <[rclark@dps61.org](mailto:rclark@dps61.org)>

**Date:** February 13, 2023 at 11:41:48 PM CST

**To:** Ashlee Smith <[ASmith@dps61.org](mailto:ASmith@dps61.org)>

**Cc:** Jared Lamb <[JMLamb@dps61.org](mailto:JMLamb@dps61.org)>, Eldon Conn <[EConn@dps61.org](mailto:EConn@dps61.org)>, Chrissy Petitt

**Subject: Re: SDMS**

Good late evening.

We received your email and Mr. Conn responded. Respectfully, all request and/or concerns should go through Mr. Lamb as he is the appropriate building administrator. This includes meeting with his staff. If issues are not resolved at the building level and after going through the proper chain of command, I encourage you to reach out to your DEA leadership as we work hard to keep a structure in place we both follow.

Having said that, I personally met with Mr. Lamb last week and I know several of my central office staff, including Mr. Talley, have been in the building to assist and meet with Mr. Lamb too. Especially over the last few weeks.

Mr. Conn, former principal of SD, continues to work with Mr. Lamb as well and has provided much support regarding safety and discipline.

Discussions have included removing students, alternate passing periods, adding metal detectors, and adding a lead security.

I will make sure someone follows up with Mr. Lamb regarding where we are in the process for SD and any further needs.

Thank you.

Dr. Clark

On Feb 13, 2023, at 10:33 PM, Ashlee Smith <[ASmith@dps61.org](mailto:ASmith@dps61.org)> wrote:

Dr. Clark,

I hope that you received my previous email regarding the safety concerns at SDMS. I again come to you as a teacher in the SDMS building, but also as a board of directors' member for DEA who is advocating for both the staff and students of SDMS.

I wanted to write to you personally as I was advised that there may be some support being worked on for us behind the scenes. While I am hopeful the information I heard through the grapevine is true, I am looking for some reassurance from the source that could put our teachers' nerves at ease. I have heard many staff members express the fact that we are feeling like a deserted island, and no one is hearing our pleas.

When listening to Jared in our monthly union meeting, it is evident that he is trying to advocate for our building with you and other central administration, but it seems he isn't always kept in the loop. One concern that was brought up several times was the fact that we understood there was to be a safety meeting about SDMS with central administration. At our union meeting Friday morning, he informed us that he was unfortunately not invited to that meeting. While I appreciate that Eldon is trying to represent SDMS in such a meeting, it seems to be somewhat of a disservice to not invite the administrator that is working so hard to keep things going in the building day in and day out. I think this also sent an unfortunate message of our pleas not necessarily getting to the ears of those who need to hear them most.

I would ask that you and the new security director please consider coming to SDMS to speak to our staff. As I shared, over 40% of our staff are considering not returning to SDMS next year if drastic measures to ensure safety isn't taken. Almost 90% of staff members have been approached by students expressing a concern about their safety at school. An incredible number of instructional minutes are being lost to hyped up students coming in after passing period fights, continued gross defiance within the learning space, and an overall disrespect for the learning environment. I will also share that prior to sending the survey out to all staff members at SDMS, we sent it out to only DEA members. Of the first respondents, over 50% of the certified staff that had responded at that time had indicated that they were considering not returning. That was alarming and very telling as to the dire concern. Over 50% of the staff responding felt that staff safety is at a 2 or below on a 5 point scale. Almost 90% of responding staff felt that student safety was at a 2 or below on a 5 point scale.

Again, please consider coming and speaking with our staff. Please listen to our concerns. I don't think SDMS can stand to lose more staff due to issues that can hopefully be better supported sooner rather than later.

Thanks,

Ashlee Smith