State of North Carolina

PAT McCRORY
GOVERNOR

September 3, 2013

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON SAFER SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2013, the Secretary of Public Safety was charged with making schools in North Carolina safer places and creating the Center for Safer Schools to be the primary point of contact for and a comprehensive resource on school safety issues; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Safer Schools hosted public forums to collect information from parents, students, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement officers, juvenile justice professionals, mental health professionals, and concerned citizens about how North Carolinians can make our schools safer learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Safer Schools recommends a multidisciplinary advisory board comprised of stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement officers, juvenile justice professionals, and mental health professionals to provide guidance to the Center for Safer Schools and to consider future policy and legislative action that is needed to improve school safety in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 North Carolina Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that nearly 23% of middle school students and nearly 40% of high school students reported gang activity on their school campuses and that 30% of North Carolina's high school students have been offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, through Session Law 2013-360, charged multiple state agencies with setting standards and guidelines for school safety exercises, providing schematic diagrams of school facilities to local law enforcement, providing anonymous tip lines so anyone can report concerns about school safety, developing school safety plans and crisis kits, creating and teaching emergency and crisis training to people who may need to respond to such a situation at a school, and implementing a volunteer school safety officers program.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Established

The Governor's Task Force for Safer Schools (hereinafter "Task Force") is hereby established.

Section 2. Membership

The Task Force shall consist of up to twenty (20) voting members.

The Governor shall appoint members from among the following categories:

1. The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety or their designee.
2. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services or their designee.
3. A member of the State Board of Education.
4. A member of the Governor's Crime Commission.
5. Two members of local school boards.
6. Two local law enforcement officers.
7. Two public school administrators.
8. A public school teacher.
9. A public school psychologist.
10. A public school resource officer.
11. A high school student attending a public high school.
12. The parent of a currently enrolled public school student.
13. A juvenile justice professional.
14. A licensed social worker.
15. Three at-large members.

The Governor shall appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair from among the membership of the Task Force.

All members shall be appointed for a term of two years and may be reappointed to successive terms. The terms of membership of the Task Force shall be staggered so that the terms of approximately one-half of the members shall expire in a single calendar year. A vacancy occurring during a term of appointment shall be filled by the Governor for the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 3. Meetings

The Task Force shall meet quarterly or upon the call of the Governor or the Chair. The Chair shall set the agenda for the Task Force's meetings. The Task Force may establish such committees or other working groups as are necessary to assist in performing its duties.

Section 4. Duties

The Task Force shall have the following duties:

A. Serve as an Advisory Board to the newly formed Center for Safer Schools.

B. Provide guidance and recommendations to improve statewide policy for the Governor and the General Assembly to enhance statewide and local capacities to create safer schools.

C. Encourage interagency collaboration among state and local government agencies to achieve effective policies and streamline efforts to create safer schools.

D. Assist the Center for Safer Schools in collecting and disseminating information on recommended best practices and community needs related to creating safer schools in North Carolina.

E. Other duties as assigned by the Governor.

Section 5. Administration

The Department of Public Safety and the Center for Safer Schools shall provide administrative and staff support services to the Task Force. Members shall serve without compensation, but may receive necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with State law and the policies and regulations of the Office of State Budget and Management.

Section 6. Effect and Duration

This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until September 30, 2017, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2(b), or until earlier rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this third day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eight.

Pat McCrory
Governor

ATTEST:

Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State