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Ms. Emily Harris:

\*Since 1999, the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team has been meeting to validate school safety best practices.

\*In 2016, Secretary of Education and Commissioner of Public Safety formalised that team, brought additional members into that team, and created the Vermont School Safety Center to oversee the work of that team. As part of that formalization, a website was created (<http://schools.vermont.gov>) to serve as a one stop shop for school safety resources.

\* The resources available on that website include planning templates and guidance, training videos, and video exercises where schools are provided with a situation and some questions that they should be answering.

\*Rob and I are available to go to Supervisory Unions and Schools to look at their particular plans, and provide them with suggestions for how to fill gaps and utilize best practices. In fact, we are visiting a Supervisory Union this afternoon to provide them with that guidance.

\*We've also been promoting in person courses for schools. This summer, we are going to continue focusing on providing training to Schools and Supervisory Unions on the Incident Command System and Crisis Communications.

Mr. Rob Evans:

As was stated, my name is Rob Evans, and I'm Vermont's School Safety Liaison Officer for Vermont's Agency of Education and Department of Public Safety. I'm speaking to you from not only as

from this formal position but as a parent who raised three children in Essex and a Trooper who led the law enforcement tactical response to the Essex School Shooting back in 2006. I want to first acknowledge the extensive school safety work that has been completed by members of this community. In fact, the school safety work that is being done across Vermont today can be traced back to the work that was started by your former Police Chief Leo Nadeau and many of your school safety partners.

In partnership with Vermont's School Crisis Planning Team, Vermont's first response community, mental health professionals, the American Red Cross, the Department of Health, Vermont's Principals, Superintendents and School Board Association, the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT) and other local and state school safety partners, the VSSC has provided school crisis planning, training and resources to schools across Vermont in the following ways:

- Provided incident command, behavioral threat assessment, crisis communication, emergency operations planning, active shooter, bomb threat response and other all hazards response training to schools across the state
- Provided school crisis planning and response plans and templates
- Met with local and state level school safety partners on a monthly basis to share school safety information and develop/share school crisis planning best practices
- Met with local and regional emergency management officials to educate and inform them of current and future school crisis planning initiatives
- Hosted four Governors School Safety Conferences highlighting new and emerging school safety trends that included: Moving beyond the traditional lockdown, behavioral threat assessment, tactical emergency medicine, incident command, security

- technology, critical incident de-briefings and individual and agency resiliency following a school critical incident
- Governor's Proclamation (September 2017) highlighting September as Vermont's School Safety Month
  - Provided "What if Wednesday" and facilitated school safety training scenarios through the AOE weekly field memo designed to provide school safety training opportunities for school leadership teams
  - Mandated school lockdown/fire drills
  - Provided on-site school safety assessment and school crisis planning support
  - Most importantly, during the month of March, working with local, county and state law enforcement, we conducted school safety site assessments in all of VT's public, private and independent schools. These assessments were designed to provide insight into our school safety planning strengths, opportunities for improvement as well as to help guide future funding for school safety planning, training and equipment needs.