

The Round Table

Stamford High School ~ 55 Strawberry Hill Avenue ~ Stamford, Connecticut, 06902

Security Tightens at Stamford High School

By: Lindsay Swatland, Staff Writer

With the recent tragedy in the nearby town of Newtown, Stamford High, along with the other schools in the Stamford Public Schools district, has extended its security and safety measures. The principals of Stamford's elementary, middle and high schools met with Superintendent Dr. Winifred Hamilton and the head of the Stamford Police Department to brainstorm ideas for new security.

Aside from the overall decision that all schools should have a guard at the front door, and all entrance and exit doors be closed and locked during school operating hours, each principal took it into their own hands to apply particular measures of their own based on the various dynamic of each school. More specifically, at Stamford High, every hour custodians check the doors and within ten minutes of each class starting security guards check every entrance.

Along with these measures of tighter policy, additional security and armed resource officers have been added. Additionally, all Stamford High teachers are now required to wear ID badges, all outside food delivery has been suspended, all visitors are to enter



Re-enactment: A student attempts to enter SHS through the back door, to no avail. Photo Credit: Felipe Securante

through the main doors at the front of the building to sign in and receive a visitors' pass, and no student is allowed to go outside to get from class to class.

Along with the rest of Stamford High's team of administrators Dr. Valentine has made one thing clear: we all have to protect each other, and work together to ensure a safer environment. "I don't think

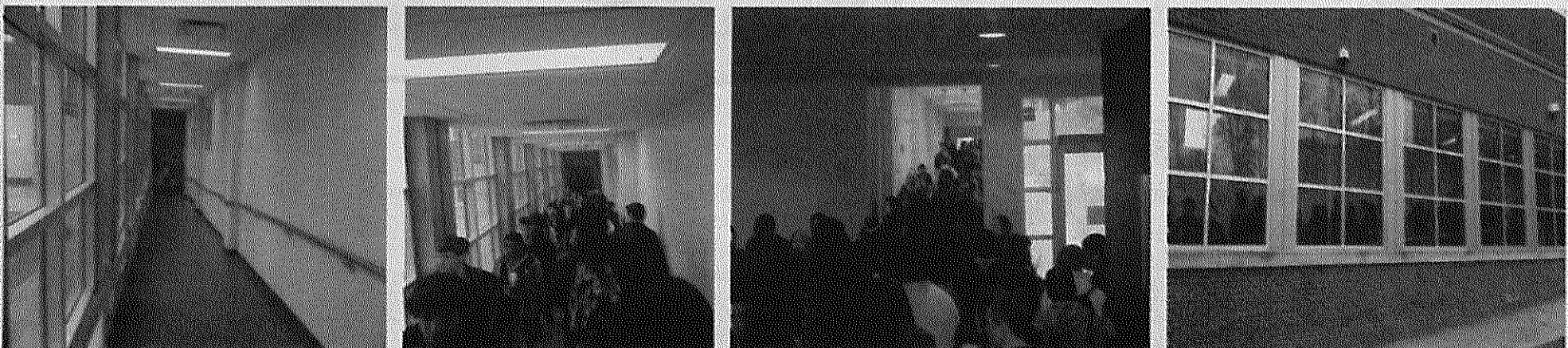
any method is foolproof," she stated, "but at least we are making the effort to do things we have control over."

With personal experience of her own, Dr. Valentine knows what type of actions must be taken. After a previous shooting incident at her former school in Rhode Island, she is familiar with the seriousness and consequential effects of the situation. During her prior experience, she not only undertook the task of reassessing the school and its basic security, but she also went through FBI training to know how to respond in emergency situations. Dr. Valentine mentioned that all doors were locked during the incident, security staff was tight, and teachers and students were all required to wear IDs, a measure that may be put into effect at Stamford High eventually. The main concern of students seems to be the new inconvenience.

Junior Brianna Bellavia said, "I understand where they are coming from and that they are just trying to do what is best, but I don't like the changes. Junior Lexi Nikolopoulos said, "It makes me feel safer, but I find it disruptive to my education because I've been arriving (Continued on pg.3, "New Steps")

On the Hill

Students flood the 5th floor connector due to the closure of a popular outdoor shortcut.



Have an opinion on the new security measures here at SHS? Tweet us about it! Your thoughts may be featured in our next issue! @TheRoundTweeter