



The Bunkhouse Chronicle

Craig Rullman
Columnist

Arming Teachers

The arrest earlier this month of a teacher at Newtown Middle School, in Connecticut — in the same district as the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary mass shooting — for carrying a firearm on school grounds has reignited the debate over arming teachers.

This teacher happened to have a valid Connecticut permit, and there were no students on campus that day, but let's set aside the legal and constitutional questions and focus on the question of arming teachers as a policy.

At least nine states have passed legislation allowing for teachers to arm themselves on campus, and even some districts in California — which claims some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation — have recently and quietly allowed qualified and properly trained teachers to carry concealed weapons.

NBC News Affiliate KSEE quoted Kingsburg Joint Union High School District Superintendent Randy Morris, "It's unfortunate we live in a society where we have

to even consider these measures, but the reality is we do."

The District's 5-0 vote to approve selected, and anonymous, staff to carry firearms was also supported by Kingsburg Police Chief Neil Dadian. "During Sandy Hook, six staff-members died, 20 children died, and it lasted less than five minutes, so that's about one death every twelve seconds — imagine if one of those teachers was also armed."

If you can imagine a horrible episode of violence, it has probably happened on some campus, either in America or abroad. And believe it or not, America doesn't lead the world in episodes of active-killers on campus. The appropriate takeaway from the horrendous and growing library of school killings seems to be this: it can happen anywhere — even in Sisters — and complacency in the security arena is deadly.

Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman, among the foremost experts on the study of violence, and on killings in our schools, whose books include "On Combat," "On Killing," and "Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill: A Call to Action Against TV, Movie, and Video Game Violence," repeatedly bemoans the state of denial that many parents, administrators, and teachers seem to be in when it comes to the realities of deadly school violence.

He uses fire safety as an excellent contrast.

In the modern era, no one would consider building a school without fire alarms, fire sprinklers, and fire exits, but Grossman rightly suggests that we routinely

ask our students and teachers to remain vulnerable to any number of deadly on-campus — or inside the classroom — violence scenarios.

Says Grossman, "But you try to prepare for violence — the thing much more likely to kill our kids in schools, the thing hundreds of times more likely to kill our kids in schools — and people think you're paranoid. They think you're crazy. ...They're in denial."

As a former SWAT

“...give teachers the option to become sheepdogs — heaven forbid they ever need to — instead of sheep.”

team leader, with hundreds of hours of active-killer training and experience, I have experienced this denial first-hand in the form of uncooperative school administrators who didn't want us to train after

hours in their schools, or teachers with fatalistic attitudes toward the safety of their students, and even themselves.

Most active-killer incidents are over in minutes, sometimes in seconds, and with response times to Sisters a logistical challenge for law enforcement, it seems a wise and responsible gesture to allow teachers the option of armed defense. In today's world, teachers should have, and should probably embrace, every option necessary to protect their students, and themselves, from a spasm of horrific violence.

It seems less like a prudent measure, in fact, than an actual duty and responsibility.

Single entry points, locked classroom doors, armed security, and student resource officers are a starting point, but they require 100 percent success, every day. A single failure anywhere in that layered defense can allow for an incident of horrific violence against unarmed and virtually defenseless

innocents. Simply hiding behind walls and doors may not be the best answer. Bullets go through walls. They go through doors, and unarmed security is a virtual waste of time, energy, and money.

Not every teacher will want to carry a concealed firearm. But some will, and those teachers should be rigorously trained by local law-enforcement as force multipliers in the event of an active-killer incident.

It is a sad testimony and regrettable symptom of our culture that we need to have this conversation at all, but we do, and in the most realistic terms possible.

Today, where movies, music, television, and other media routinely divorce the minds of consumers from the true and horrific consequences of violence, the very least we can do is embrace the notion that predictable is preventable, and give teachers the option to become sheepdogs — heaven forbid they ever need to — instead of sheep.

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Black Butte Ranch Rural Fire Protection District Notice of Budget Hearing

A public meeting of the Black Butte Ranch Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors, will be held on May 26th, 2016 at 9:00 am at 13511 Hawks Beard, Black Butte Ranch Oregon 97759. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 as approved by the Black Butte Ranch Rural Fire Protection District Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 13511 Hawks Beard, Black Butte Ranch, OR, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount Year 2014/15	Adopted Budget This Year 2015-16	Approved Budget Next Year 2016-17
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	2,349,440	2,562,284	2,559,728
Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service	100,000	180,000	120,000
All Other Resources Except Current Year	66,250	74,515	72,993
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	1,711,654	1,707,114	1,769,696
Total Resources	4,227,344	4,523,913	4,522,417

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	1,086,354	1,297,805	1,314,021
Materials and Services	217,693	336,793	350,183
Capital Outlay	53,852	413,838	17,500
Interfund Transfers	100,000	180,000	120,000
Contingencies	0	400,000	400,000
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	2,769,445	1,895,477	2,320,713
Total Requirements	4,227,344	4,523,913	4,522,417

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for that unit or program		
Fire & EMS Services	1,357,899	2,048,436	1,681,704
FTE	9	9	9
Non-Departmental Non-Program	2,869,445	2,475,477	2,840,713
FTE	0	0	0
Total Requirements	4,227,344	4,523,913	4,522,417
Total FTE	9	9	9

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *

No prominent changes

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed Year 2014/15	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2015-16	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2016-17
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 1.4677 per \$1,000)	1.4677	1.4677	1.4677
Local Option Levy	1.56	1.56	1.56

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1.	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
Total	No long term debt	No long term debt