

and raising money for SROs but talking about timing was premature. He said MA does need this tool but also needs to assess vulnerability. Finally, board Vice President Megghan St. Aubyn noted that the board's role was to set policy, and it should write a draft of one to allow this or any other program.

Principals at the East Campus were also supportive, with David Kennington saying his experience at a former school changed how he felt about armed security. Angela Duca agreed with others and said she understood and trusted the program. Elementary principals said their team was not as supportive of the program, with Laura Barrette noting that elementary staff are nurturers. She raised concerns about how teachers would manage their class if they were called to an emergency and said she preferred armed police with years of training. She added it had been years since MA assessed

the West Campus, and arming staff is going to extremes.

During the public comments portion of the meeting, a new parent said he had come to the school to ask about security protocols. Although the board typically does not respond to public comments, Graham said MA had a crisis team and offered to speak with him offline.

Christin Patterson, strings teacher at MA, said the staff results contradict the parental feedback on the survey. She felt both campuses were safe with existing measures and did not believe MA was a soft target. Patterson felt MA would be better off spending its money assessing vulnerabilities. She expressed skepticism about background checks and red flag laws, saying someone could pass one day and break down the next. She felt bringing in guns would bring more chances that someone could be hurt.

Patterson also read a statement from another teacher

who said the FASTER program is highly reactive and does not solve the problem. They urged the board to seek proactive options, saying it should address resources for mental health, bullying, stress, and resisting social pressures. They expressed concern that people holding

weapons would focus on that rather than fully paying attention to students and said students would find out who was carrying. Patterson relayed another statement from a teacher who said they taught students

using scientific reasoning and supporting evidence, and there was no evidence FASTER would improve outcomes. They said asking teachers to carry firearms is contrary to developing lifelong relationships and places

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