

KAPS Executive Council Meeting
December 12, 1997

EC members present were: Alan Mullins, Mike Norris, Ruth Bewley, Erin Richardson, Alicia Lateer-Huhn, Wendy Watts, Beth Huff, Angela Wilkins, Connie Adams, Angie Chandler, Bob Kruger, and Tammy Chapman.

Alan introduced the meeting agenda. He began the meeting by recapping the experiences in McCracken County involving the shooting deaths of three girls at Heath High School. The Kentucky Community Response Team did some good things according to Alan. There is a board director and Angela Wilkins is the educational representative for the board. There are local contacts across the state. There are about five in the Paducah area as part of a team but only two were contacted. This caused others to feel left out as the incident was in "their own backyard". Alan would like KAPS to develop a packet for school systems to utilize for crises. A team from the National Office of Victims Assistance (NOVA) came in a week later. Scot Poland is a part of the NOVA team which is more a community oriented approach helping families/communities deal with a crisis.

Alan was called within fifteen minutes of the shooting which took place at 7:43a.m. Ambulances were already leaving Heath with the bodies by 8:10 a.m. as Alan got to the school. Heath is rural and the road becomes easily blocked with cars. The area was immediately taped off. Central office staff were just standing around for the most part not acting. Alan assisted in making decisions such as where to put the media, the students, and so forth. The whole first hour for Alan consisted of directing people into activities. Parents were relatively calm and the police were there. The buses came immediately back and picked up kids for their routes leaving the school virtually empty within the first hour. The students were sent home without the permission from parents but this seemed to go okay in this smaller, rural community. Alan said there was one negative call that day stating, "That's what you get mixing church and state" but that the vast majority of calls were positive and supportive. Alan had his picture appear in the paper and he stated it was of him with a girl who was a friend of the girls in the prayer group.

Alan reported that by as early as 9:15 or 9:30, the national early morning talk shows were calling to ask permission to come to the school and interview people. That morning Alan talked to a parent who knew (father and son) where the guns used in the slaying had come from. It was the girl's (he had been pictured with) dad and brother. The police interrogated the father and son. When the mother and daughter wanted to remain with the father and son, an argument ensued between the police and the mother. It was hard to believe, but the mother was arrested and Alan was comforting the daughter whose mom was taken to jail (a side bar incident to the whole bizarre event). In general, the media was kept away from the scene.

Alan reported that the principal did a good job. The principal got Michael Carneal (slayer) right after he had fired almost a full round. Later there was mention that the movie "Basketball Diaries" did have some influence on Michael, a fourteen year old freshman at Heath. His sister was a part of the prayer group. Interestingly, she is in line to be valedictorian this year for her senior class. The student "hero", an older Christian youth, talked Michael into stopping but has had feelings of guilt that he should have reacted quicker. Michael put down the gun calmly after the boy talked to him and was then whisked to the principal's office. He had one bullet left. His parents got to the office and remained with their son. The shooting appeared to be indiscriminant as one of the girls was reportedly a good friend of Michael's. Later, Michael's sister was in the choir at the mass funeral.

Alan went on to report that after dealing with the media for about two hours, two Winnebago's arrived and by evening thirteen or so (all media) were perched at a hill a certain distance from the school that had been designated for them. Alan had concerns over the names of those involved in the incident being released so soon and wondered why the police captain could release names that afternoon. Other friends of Michael's were named though not charged.

Later that day, Alan stated that the decision was made to have school the next day based on discussions with other districts who had encountered similar experiences. Surprisingly, 60 to 70 percent of the school population showed up. Alan thought that was a good decision. There were lots of volunteers the next day to help out. Alan feels the kids got the most from being with each other (only 500 students). It was a loose day the next day filled with grieving and counseling. It was a chance for kids and adults to see each other grieve. NOVA did a debriefing and Alan coached basketball for the coach who was in the debriefing. One of the victims in the hospital was a basketball player and one who died was a star on the basketball team. The opposing team gave flowers to the Heath County girl's team. Alan stated that he has received his own support from his family and has tried to do positive things like work out at the gym. He stated that Ray Roth has supported him by just listening.

Alan gave some additional information that the high school had been fighting consolidation (with two other high schools). The decision had been made to make a huge 2100 high school but Heath was adamant about their rural status and wanted their own school identity thinking it was safer, too. People stated they moved there to get away from "large city stuff" and violence. Alan sees how irony exists. He remembered the KASA conference and discussing CRISIS response as a part of the school psychologist's role. Also, a Courier-Journal writer (Dick Wilson) in the fall had wanted to interview Alan on violence in schools. Alan and a school counselor did fifteen minutes on CNN.

Alan concluded by saying that the media stuck around until the funerals on Friday. Media was parked 150 to 200 feet away where platforms had been built to place the cameras. During that week, media had called families' homes. One example was People magazine contacting the very day of the shooting. He made some statements to the media which he regretted and apologized for what he had said to his friends the next day. Kids had been encouraged to write/draw their feelings and this student wrote an apology and stuck it in the lobby. Suspecting that the child might harm himself over the interview, Alan and Angela Wilkins got to the child and he is okay now. Alan stated there is even a website for the incident.

a student
out seeking
mental help

Angie Chandler cited a repercussion incident where a student made off-hand remarks about the Paducah incident and was publically embarrassed. After that he stated, "I'm never going to be the same again...I'm emotionally scarred for life!"

Angela Wilkins said that now Ballard County is going to bring back corporal punishment in elementary schools.

Alan stated that NOVA team leader, Scott ^{Poland} ~~Poland~~, and he consulted and decided the incident could not have been predicted. Michael Carneal is a fairly intelligent child similar to others in the school. He displayed a hint of hyperactivity but it was not really notable. It was not an impulsive act. There were questions about his mind snapping briefly. However, it was felt that Michael's act was premeditated. He stole the gun before Thanksgiving and told others that something BIG was going to happen soon. He was in a sort-of "anti-group" (or following in the tails of that group), mocking the prayer group a few times earlier in the year. Factors in the family may have influenced or wanting to impress older members of the anti-group. Michael had been teased/ribbed for ~~an~~ years and he was deemed nerdy-looking. He came from a high achieving family with a successful older sister to follow. His pre-meditation, 14 years of age and state statute were three reasons to try him as an adult.

Alan relayed that there were all kinds of side-lines to this incident. There had been a phone call saying a bigger incident in all three high schools would occur. There was a bomb threat mentioned. The school board meeting was threatened. A home schooled juvenile from another high school near Heath had pot in a school parking lot and a loaded pistol.

The incident is changing thinking in districts about safety and discipline. Legislation may increase for safe schools projects, metal detectors, corporal punishment etc., all outward ways to deal with student control. This subject will become a "train" many people will get on such as politicians, educators, mental health professionals, etc. but perhaps not all for the right reasons.

Alan believes making our school buildings prisons won't change the "Michael Carneal's". Those students will still do it...maybe in a parking lot but it will happen. We need to work on NASP issues of tolerance and social developmental issues. Teacher unions will have to say we need interventions for kids like this. The concern is that politicians will focus on the tangibles (metal detectors) versus interventions for troubled kids. Character education needs to be incorporated. Social skills training have effective lessons. School psychologists need to encourage character education lesson planning. "Bullying" and the need for tolerance are issues teachers need to be sensitized to.

Alan reflected that after using course or manual information from a crisis management document, that that learning runs out "in about an hour" and then you deal with issues by using compassion. Angela pointed out how school psychologists and counselors are needed in times like these. She passed out a summary sheet of critical incident school response. Area code 888-522-7228 directs you to KY Community Crisis Teams (housed under the Dept. of Military Affairs) and training by NOVA. One hundred and forty people are now trained but training will be re-done with police checks on participants. There is generally a window of 48-72 hours time for crisis response.

After one hour and forty-five minutes of debriefing by Alan and questions and experience sharing by EC members, the KAPS meeting began. Thanks, Alan for caring so much about kids and the services school psychologists provide!

in the September meeting
The KAPS minutes were officially approved with the addition that Connie Adams was in attendance at the last meeting. Angie Chandler voted the minutes be approved and Bob Kruger seconded the motion.

Gadbury
Committee reports began with Bob whom chairs Planning & Development. Bob passed out the student representative duties to Tammy Chapman, Student Rep., Newsletter to go to Laura McGrail, and P.R. to go to Michelle Gadbury. We still do not have an executive secretary (a paid position). Angela stated she appreciated Bob's efforts to develop performance standards for each job role in KAPS.

Membership chair, Shelly Tisdale was not present. Alan mentioned Tony Wilson and President-Elect, Alex Thomas, want NASP and individual state psychology organizations to increase membership. KAPS has picked up 25 new members but records also need to be purged of those who haven't paid. Membership is believed to be at around 290.

Ethics chair, Judith Watson, was not present.

Newsletter chair, Laura McGrail, also was not present but did send her E-Mail address: lmcgrail@henderson.net. She welcomes reports for the newsletter. The next edition was to go out 1/9/98. Laura wants the term of the newsletter chair set for a definite length of time just as president and other key offices are set for specific time periods. Laura suggested three years. However, Bob pointed out that no chairs are limited. He stated that the person who takes it might voluntarily say how long they would be willing to serve. He added that maybe there should be a protocol for resigning positions.

Public Relations was reported by Angie Chandler for Michelle Gadbury. Michelle will explore getting a good rate to print KAPS items. She will also explore getting KAPS a website and Patsy Thompson and Michelle will coordinate with Mike Norris on this.

Legislative Committee news was reported by Connie Adams. She would like to see KAPS represented on the IDEA regulations committee for the KY Department of Special Education (KDE). Once IDEA comes to the states, KDE will react by developing state regulations. Connie provided a copy of the school psychology inclusion bill (now HB 100) an act relating to school psychologists being referred to and designated school administrators. The bill is a wording change. Discussion took place on the need for a

KAPS liaison to KASA (Phyllis Case is designated representative and her status in that position will be checked on). Bob Kruger will contact KASA and Angela will contact Phyllis to determine her status. On other issues, Connie wants authorization to put together a legislative mailing but needs packet and secretarial assistance. Connie also mentioned the Certified Professional Counselor (CPC) certification in private practice title may be eventually included in counselor role. Connie mentioned the need to have a review or discussion on confidentiality of mental health records, technology and "duty to warn".

Mike Norris discussed the status of the 1998 KAPS Conference and provided a written summary of progress in planning the conference. The site will be the University of Louisville, Shelby Campus on 9/30, 10/1 and 10/2. The site is comparable to the Perkins Building at ECU. Erin Richardson briefly discussed the program. A survey was taken concerning topics and will be in the KAPS Newsletter listed in areas of greatest to least interest. The social for the conference was also discussed and the expense that might incur.

Regional news: Region 1: A meeting was held in November. Pat Murphy, a consultant, presented on school change and our role in the process. The next Region 1 meeting is March 11th. A psychological associate will discuss their role. The issue of clinical diagnosis coming up in schools will be addressed and consolidated planning and our role in that. The developmental therapy program in an elementary and two middle schools will be discussed.

Region 2: No new business.

Region 3: This region is working on the KAPS conference since the site is Louisville. They will include the Ky School for the Blind psychologist. The KDE monitoring of JCPS has been the other big focus to this point.

Region 4: Two meetings have been held this year; one on 504 and the second meeting on Kenton County's "school within a school" for academically at-risk kids. Staff from the program presented.

Region 5: No report.

Region 6: Susan Burgan presented at their last regional meeting on Functional Assessment. The group discussed various cases in the afternoon.

Region 7: No report.

Region 8: No report.

Student meetings at the KAPS Convention were questioned as to the effectiveness of having them. The president, president-elect, or past-president should probably attend to lend background information and continuity to the meetings.

NASP delegate was not present but it was mentioned by Alan that there is a plan to increase membership at both the local and national level. A second issue is "tolerance" which is Deborah Crockett's agenda.

Treasurer's Report by Marty Kent was discussed briefly by Alan as Marty was not present. Total assests are \$20,908.17. Marty is prepared to place a large portion of the current \$ into a six month CD as was done last year. The motion was made to invest \$12,000.00 in a CD by Bob Kruger. Alicia Lateer-Huhn seconded it and the motion was passed. \$1500.00 for spring was to be deducted before depositing it.

March 6th in E-town spring training workshop will probably occur. Topics such as reauthorization of IDEA presented by NASP speaker Gordy Wrobel, Bill Pfohl choosing one of several topics or manifestation determination by Charlie Muntz. At this time no one is in charge of the spring training and another date may be used. John Murphy doing the topic of brief therapy was mentioned. Legal issues like confidentiality, ethical issues or duty to warn were mentioned. Successful programs or "things that work

for kids" was also mentioned. Mark Fenzel, an attorney with Middleton & Reutlinger experienced with educational legal issues, will be contacted by Mike Norris.

Alan stated that the 1997 conference evaluations were good.

Alan also passed out Sawyer Hunley's summary of committee plans for the Task Force on Dropout Prevention.

Alan mentioned two NASP issues. One is that the NASP Government and Professional Relations i.e., legislative committee of NASP is available and that we use Connie Adams as our representative to provide input. Secondly, tolerance was a topic at the Southeast Regional Meeting and was very good and one we may want to consider using.

Alan proposed an addendum to PR and liaison section of the KAPS Operations & Procedures Manual. He proposed that the liaison representative submit summaries annually. EC tabled discussion on terms of office for newsletter committee and others.

KAPS will donate a blanket or throw by Churchill Weavers to the NASP's Children's Fund auction and KAPS will donate a yet undetermined amount (between \$25 and \$200) to the Minority Scholarship Fund.

Angela Wilkins gave a KDE liaison report and began by stating that the next dropout steering committee meeting will be 1/13/98. The committee will keep a 60 day waiting period before a child 16 or younger can dropout. Data is being collected on school violence and safety. Angela will collect the data and summarize it. Angela has written a document on discipline along with Mike Waford, state BD consultant. The document has intervention plans for students with disabilities. It will identify behavior barriers to student discipline. Angela developed a paper for the governor on Ky Alternative Schools for Discipline/Academics. The need for school psychologists's involvement is included. The idea is to create schools for day treatment using state and local matching funds. Angela wanted us to know that the KY Teacher is a newspaper from the state that is available. Common Agenda is a KY Dept. of Ed. publication for school councils and is also available.

The next meeting of KAPS EC will be the same day as spring training in E-Town. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ruth Bewley and Wendy Watts seconded it.

Respectfully submitted by,


Ruth Bewley
KAPS Recording Secretary