School Safety Subworkgroup
Code Change Subworkgroup Meeting Summary
9:30 A.M., June 12, 2019
Chesterfield County Government Center
9800 Government Center Parkway
Chesterfield, VA 23832

No members of the Board of Housing and Community Development attended the workgroup meeting.

Meeting Overview

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss school safety related issues, in particular, door locking and barricade devices. The meeting was a continuation of discussions from the April 16, 2019 meeting.

Discussion

There was discussion amongst stakeholders regarding concerns over active shooter situations in non-school buildings.

The subworkgroup split into smaller discussion groups reporting back to the group at large on their discussions.

General conclusions of the meeting were as follows (this is not indicative of consensus reached on all points):

- For new construction, where egress doors are provided from classrooms, code compliant locking hardware should be installed. This should be included in the building design and accounted for in the construction budget.
- For existing schools, or in instances where a locality decides they want to install supplemental /barricade devices, they need to be able to make their own security decisions.
- For any device installed on a classroom door, there needs to be a way to disengage or unlock the device from outside of the classroom.
- The proposal should include language to ensure that first responders are notified if a supplemental/barricade device is approved to be installed and the first responders should be provided an opportunity to train on the device.
- The committee should draft legislation allowing the misuse of any supplementary lockdown device to result in a criminal charge.
- A proposal will be sent to the group for review/comment and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Future Discussion

A draft code change proposal will be discussed at the next meeting.

A detailed meeting summary can be found at the following link – https://va.cdpaccess.com (login required but registration is free)