Caddo Sheriff proposes arming some school faculty

Thursday, February 22, 2018

In an e-mail to Caddo Parish School Board members today, Sheriff Steve Prator asked that they consider allowing armed faculty in parish schools.

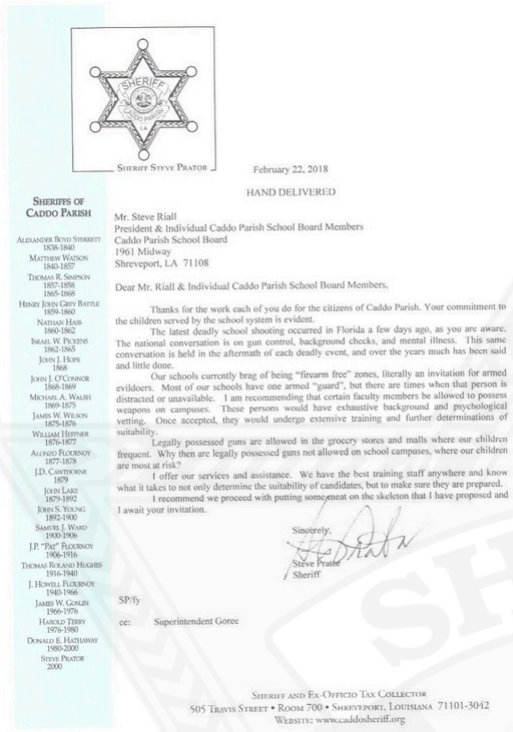
"Our schools currently brag of being "firearm free" zones, literally an invitation for armed evil doers," the Sheriff said. "Most of our school's have one armed "guard," but there are times when that person is distracted or unavailable. I am recommending that certain faculty members be allowed to possess weapons on campuses. These persons would have exhaustive background and psychological vetting. Once accepted, they would undergo extensive training and further determinations of suitability."

Prator said his proposal is not for everyone, "but we have people in schools that have military and law enforcement backgrounds, those who have more confidence in their ability to handle a weapon under stressful conditions. These are the people we should look at," he said.

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and its Regional Training Academy could assist with training and screening individuals.

"Everybody talks after each shooting, and nothing ever gets done," Prator said. "We can't wait on Washington or Congress to solve a local problem when we have the resources to take action ourselves."

Attachments



SHERIFF STEVE PRATOR

February 22, 2018

HAND DELIVERED

SHERIFFS OF CADDO PARISH

ALEXANDER BOYD STERRETT 1838-1840
MATTHEW WATSON 1840-1857
THOMAS R. SIMPSON 1857-1858 1865-1868
HENRY JOHN GRAY BATTLE 1859-1860
NATHAN HAIS 1860-1862
ISRAEL W. PICKENS 1862-1865
JOHN J. HOPE 1868
JOHN J. O'CONNOR 1868-1869
MICHAEL A. WALSH 1869-1875
JAMES W. WILSON 1875-1876
WILLIAM HEFFNER 1876-1877
ALONZO FLOURNOY 1877-1878
J.D. CAMPBURNE 1879
JOHN LAKE 1879-1892
JOHN S. YOUNG 1892-1900
SAMUEL J. WARD 1900-1906
J.P. "PAT" FLOURNOY 1906-1916
THOMAS ROLAND HUGHES 1916-1940
J. HOWELL FLOURNOY 1940-1966
JAMES W. GOSLIN 1966-1976
HAROLD TERRY 1976-1980
DONALD E. HATHAWAY 1980-2000
STEVE PRATOR 2000

Mr. Steve Riall
President & Individual Caddo Parish School Board Members
Caddo Parish School Board
1961 Midway
Shreveport, LA 71108

Dear Mr. Riall & Individual Caddo Parish School Board Members,

Thanks for the work each of you do for the citizens of Caddo Parish. Your commitment to the children served by the school system is evident.

The latest deadly school shooting occurred in Florida a few days ago, as you are aware. The national conversation is on gun control, background checks, and mental illness. This same conversation is held in the aftermath of each deadly event, and over the years much has been said and little done.

Our schools currently brag of being "firearm free" zones, literally an invitation for armed evildoers. Most of our schools have one armed "guard", but there are times when that person is distracted or unavailable. I am recommending that certain faculty members be allowed to possess weapons on campuses. These persons would have exhaustive background and psychological vetting. Once accepted, they would undergo extensive training and further determinations of suitability.

Legally possessed guns are allowed in the grocery stores and malls where our children frequent. Why then are legally possessed guns not allowed on school campuses, where our children are most at risk?

I offer our services and assistance. We have the best training staff anywhere and know what it takes to not only determine the suitability of candidates, but to make sure they are prepared.

I recommend we proceed with putting some meat on the skeleton that I have proposed and I await your invitation.

Sincerely,

Steve Prator
Sheriff

SP/fy

cc: Superintendent Goree

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR
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WEBSITE: www.caddosheriff.org