School Security: The Approach at Sandy Hook

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Agenda

1. Standards for school security

2. Developing a security program

3. The 3 legs of school security

    + Security through architecture

    + Security through technology

    + Security through operations

4. Questions

Security Standards Development

+ What is being done to generate standards for security?

  - No standards from building code, security industry, or other recognized sanctioning body.

  - There continues to be work done at the federal and state level, but still no true "standards" have been developed or legislated.

  - Wide variance in school setting and demographic make standard development difficult.

  - *Establish security program guidelines:*

    - Threats

    - Vulnerabilities

    - Subsequent risks

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Security Program Development

+ How can a district work to develop its own standards?

  - Assemble a multidisciplinary security working group

  - Determine resource base/commitment

  - Identification of threats

  - Understand vulnerabilities resulting from threats

  - Assign risk profile

  - Develop mitigation strategies using the three legs of school security

+ Lots of information is available to help

  - FEMA

  - U.S. Department of Education

  - U.S. Department of Homeland Security

  - Consultants and SMEs

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Three Legs of School Security

Architecture

School Layout
Traffic
Sightlines
Fencing
Portals

Technology

Surveillance
Access Control
Alarm Point
Monitoring
Communications

Operations

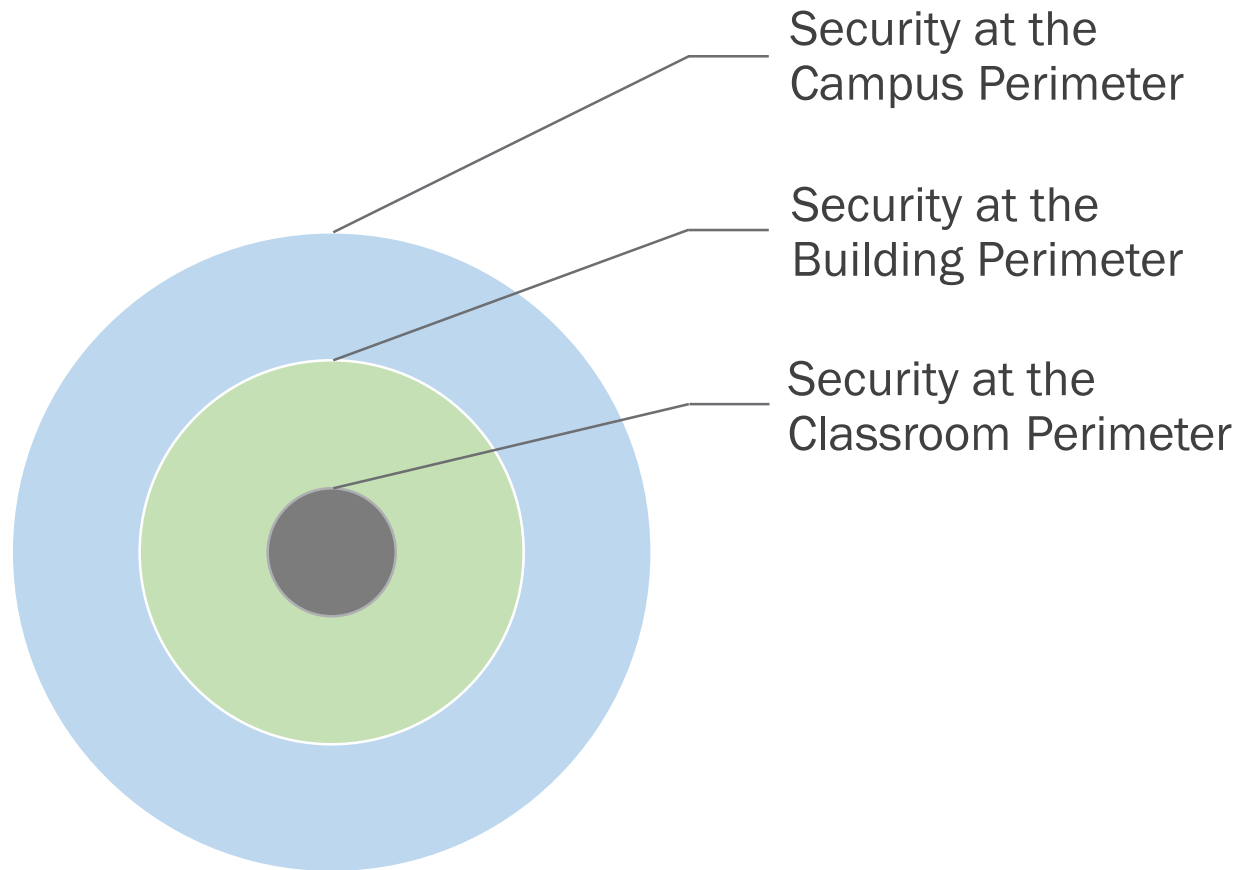Staffing
Policies
Procedures
Training

Uncompromising Architecture
Elements of a Nurturing Learning Environment

+ Welcoming Entry

+ Sense of "Home"

+ Coherent Circulation

+ Daylight / Views / Air

+ Nature / Biophilia

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Security through Architecture
Site Strategies

+ ## Define Area / Express Ownership

  - Fences

  - Gates / Intercom

  - Streetscape

  - Natural Features / Modify Landscape

  - Signage / Lighting

  - Barriers

+ ## Maximize Natural Surveillance

  - View Corridor to/from Building Entry

  - "Eyes on the Street"

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Security through Architecture
Security at the Campus Perimeter

+ Person Interdiction

  - Are fences helpful or do they require too much manpower and maintenance?

  - Is it reasonable to expect to stop someone from walking onto the campus?

+ Parking Management

  - Controlled lots

  - Early warning of approaching vehicles

  - Traffic plan and visitor parking

+ Vehicle Interdiction

  - Streetscape

  - Landscape

  - Barriers

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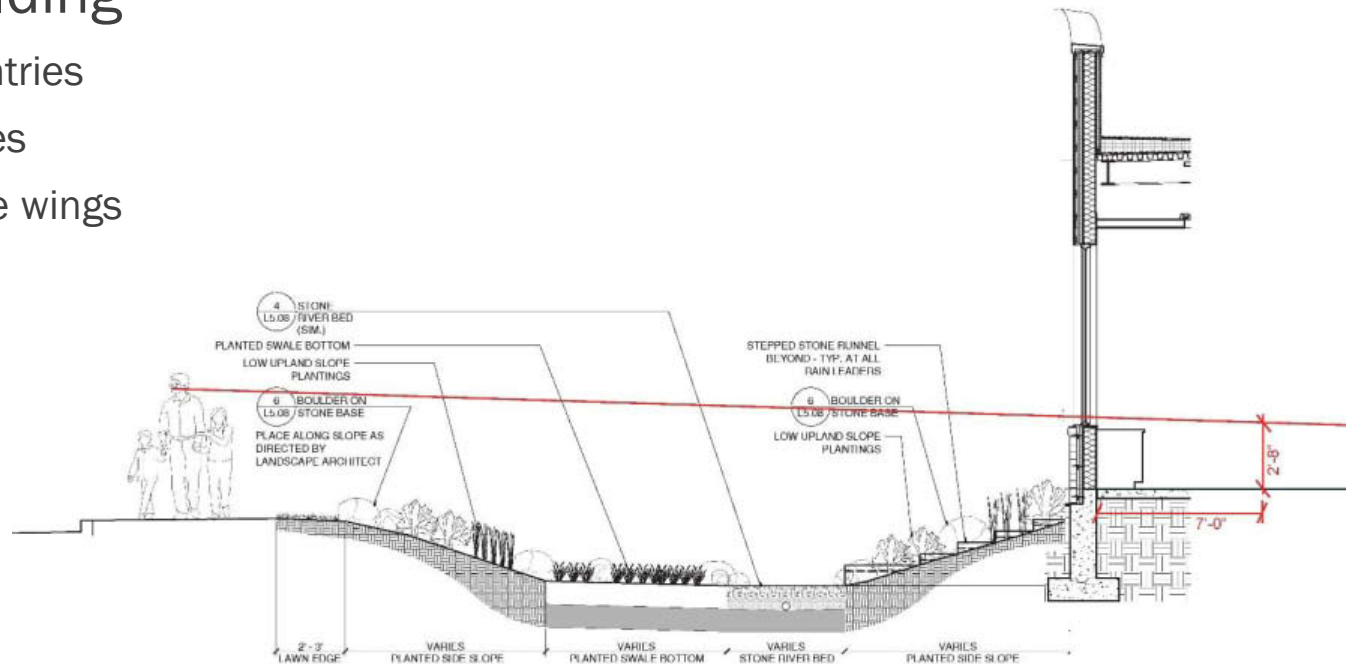# Security through Architecture
Building Strategies

+ Discourage Easy Access

- Plinthing the building
- Landscaping

+ Layer the Building

- Managed entries
- Public spaces
- Partitionable wings

Security through Architecture
Security at the Building Perimeter

+ **Visitor Management**

  - Visitor arrival and vetting process

  - Secure vestibule at building entrance

  - Placement and use of administrative areas/offices

+ **After Hours School Areas**

  - Partitioning of after hours facilities from classroom areas of the building

  - Dedicated restroom and janitorial facilities

+ **Perimeter Windows / Doors**

  - Laminated glass, bullet resistant assemblies

  - Exterior access points

Security through Architecture
Approaches for the Classroom

+ ## The Classroom as a Safe Room
  - Door / Wall construction
  - Forced entry resistance
  - Alternate escape route?

+ ## Views In / Out
  - Sidelites / Door lites
  - Operable exterior windows

+ ## Door Hardware
  - Ease of mind

+ ## Communication
  - Phones / PA system
  - Panic button
  - Cell phones / text message

Security through Technology
Designing the Right Tools for the Environment

Is this man effectively monitoring video cameras?

+ Common Technology Pitfalls/Misconceptions:

- Technology supports security, and more tools provide more security

- Support tools and technology should form the basis of any security program

- Security staff are incredibly efficient and effective at using security technology tools

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Security through Technology
Designing the Right Tools for the Environment

+ Technology Design - Best Practices:

  - Design the security program <u>first</u>, then the supportive tools to go with it

  - Use technology as a tool to help mitigate your school's risk profile

  - Understand your manpower and what they are capable of

  - Organize and implement your security technology so it can be used as a force <u>multiplier</u>

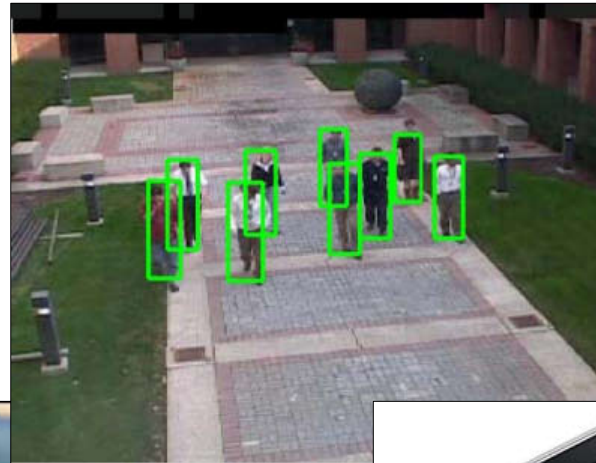# Security through Technology
Designing the Right Tools for the Environment

+ Technology Design – Most Common System Elements:

- Alarm monitoring of perimeter doors

- Access control for building and city staff

- Semi-automated dispatch and lockdown capabilities

- Video surveillance of entryways and perimeter locations

- Digital video recording for archival

- Local monitoring capabilities

- Networking of multiple schools for centralized monitoring

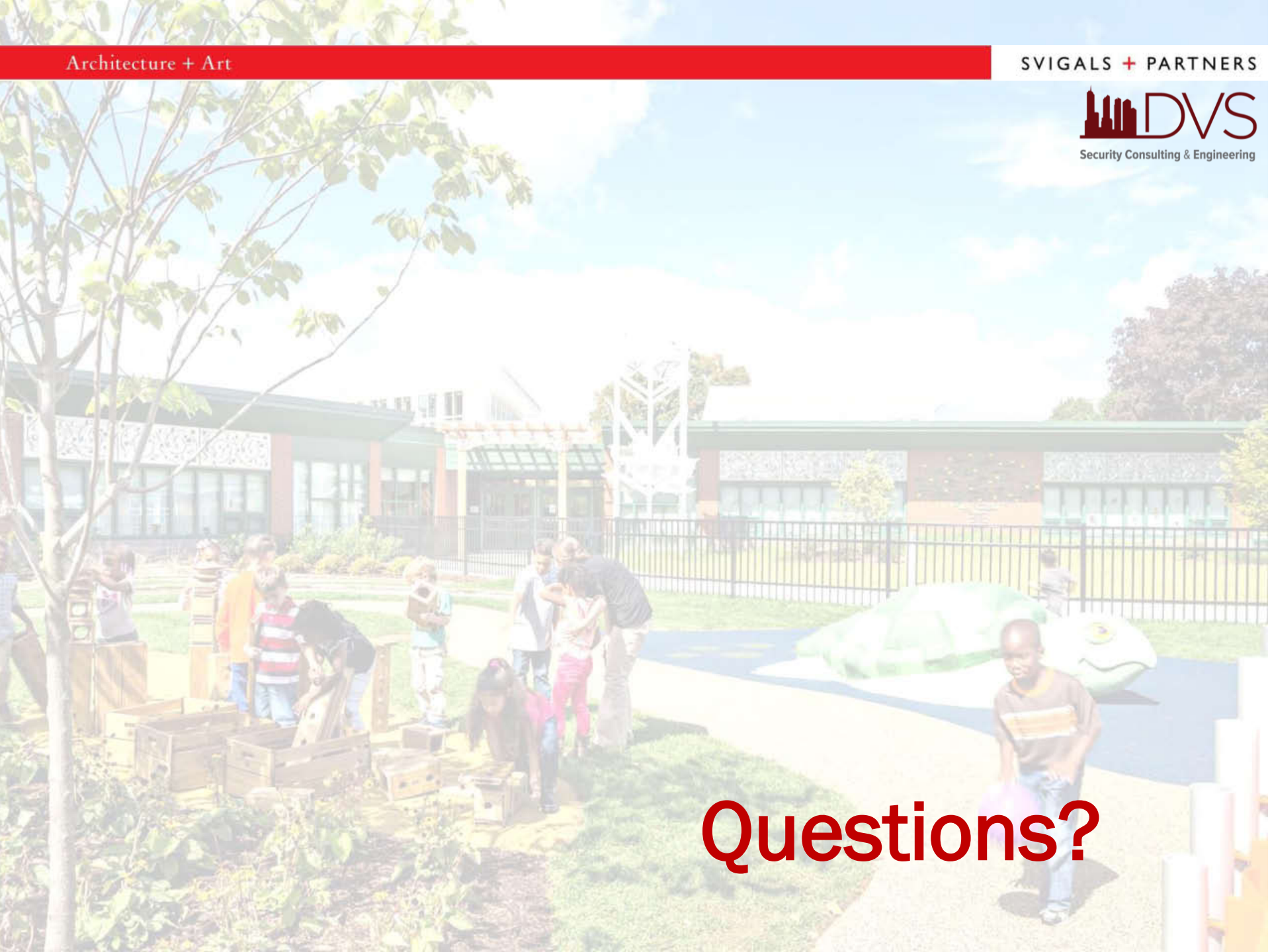SVIGALS + PARTNERS DVS

Security through Technology
A Few Advanced Tools for Particular Applications

Security through Operations

+ It all comes down to a live, thinking human being (no robots...yet)

  - Situational awareness – what is happening around and in my school?

  - C3I – Communications, Coordination, Control, and Information

  - The value of the permanent post

  - Training, training, training

    - Staff (after hours)

    - Teachers (after hours)

    - Other town or district stakeholders

  - How are operations affected by the type of school?

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Questions?