

AFT Presentation to the Board of Trustees on the CyFair Stabbings – May 2, 2013

I am John Burghduff representing the American Federation of Teachers.

At the February meeting of the Board, I spoke about a shooting at North Harris College. Three months later I am speaking to you about another act of violence, this time occurring partly right outside my own office suite. On April 9, a disturbed CyFair College student stabbed fourteen students in the Health Science Center including two that my colleagues and I sheltered in our office suite. I want you to know firsthand what happened that day.

We are greatly blessed that all of the victims of these brutal attacks are recovering. The primary reason for this positive outcome is the decisive action of many faculty, staff and students who rose to the occasion, sometimes at great personal risk. Some chased down and caught the perpetrator. Others tended to the victims some of whom were seriously wounded. Still others found ways to get the word to students and colleagues to lock down and shelter in place. Others communicated with police and emergency personnel to make sure they knew what had happened and where the victims were. Still others took on the gruesome task of cleaning up the scene so that students could return to classes the next day. Since the attacks, I have been trying to identify as many of those individuals as I could find to recognize them in our next edition of *The Advocate*. I have left for you a list of 43 courageous CyFair employees I have identified so far and the key roles they played.

Although I wish I could focus all of my time with you today on the heroes of April 9, I would not be giving you a complete view of what happened. There were serious flaws in the college's emergency response that created confusion and left students and employees in potential danger for too long.

Our internal 911 system overloaded and failed apparently only able to handle five or six incoming calls at a time. Our text messaging system worked for some employees and students but not others. There was a nearly 45 minute delay between the time of the first successful 911 call and the time the official lock down order came from college administration as has been reported on Channel 2 News. The police office was empty and locked. College administrators did not activate the public address system. Instead, the announcement that was featured on the news was made by a lab coordinator who figured out the system, a system that is still not fully functional and is accessible to only a few people. Because of these flaws, students and employees continued to wander into crime scenes unaware of what had happened and unsure of whether the violence had stopped.

Twice in one semester, the students and employees of LSCS have been victims of brutal violence. What concerns the AFT greatly is that many of the systems that did not work properly at North Harris in January were still not working properly at CyFair in April. My colleagues and I need to see that solving these problems will be the highest priority for the administration and the board.

LSC-CyFair Employees Who Assisted During the Stabbing Attack, April 9, 2013

Amy Aragon, lab coordinator, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Ann Baker, staff assistant, coordinated communication through facilities radios

Simone Bennett, staff assistant, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Denise Berkey, nursing professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

John Burghduff, mathematics professor, worked to lock down HSC2

Kerrah Cain, staff assistant, worked to lock down HSC1 and directed emergency responders

Elvira Cavazos, division coordinator, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Judith Cardenas, custodian, used her radio to report stabbings in progress

Aurora Conway, biology professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Lisa Cougot, division operations manager, identified the perpetrator and joined in efforts to apprehend him

Smruti Desai, biology professor, cared for the wounded in HSC2

Maria Florez, biology professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Ronnie Fernandez, PC technician, warned TECH 123 to lock down

Cindy Galvan, adjunct biology instructor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Daniel Garcia, custodian supervisor, guided police and ambulances to the crime scene and informed campus administration

Tim Givens, maintenance technician, directed emergency responders to the wounded from the parking lot

Cindy Griffith, dean, coordinated care of the wounded in HSC1 and HSC2 and worked to lock down HSC1

Susan Hall, nursing lab coordinator, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Sandra Hayes, custodian, cared for wounded victims in the cafeteria

Suzie Hsieh, biology professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Jane Kacir, nursing professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Milton Kandeh, biology professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Kim Miller, emergency medical services professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1 and HSC2 and coordinated emergency responders

Rachael Mossman, adjunct biology instructor, cared for the wounded and worked to lock down HSC1

Mohammed Nosrati, adjunct math instructor, cared for the wounded in HSC2

Maria Piedrola, custodian, used her radio to report stabbings in progress

James Pirtle, maintenance technician, assisted the wounded and directed police and emergency responders

Scott Pagano, adjunct biology instructor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Marcus Phillips, laboratory specialist, accessed the P.A. system to order a lock down in HSC2

Becky Ray, counselor, cared for the wounded and provided counseling support

Pamelyn Reed, transitional math professor, cared for the wounded in HSC2

Lynda Rieger, division coordinator, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Kristina Sampson, mathematics professor, cared for the wounded and communicated with emergency responders in HSC2

Debbie Seidel, division coordinator, cared for the wounded and worked to lock down HSC1

James Seymour, history professor, coordinated communication between the administration and the faculty after the event

Mick Stafford, library director, coordinated lock down efforts in the library

Angelica Sutton, counselor, provided counseling to employees and students

Steven Teeple, echocardiography instructor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Gholam Toutounchi, physics professor, first known witness, contacted police and alerted employees

Padmaja Vedartham, biology professor, cared for the wounded in HSC1

Brad Wilson, maintenance technician, assisted Ann Baker in keeping employees informed

Bob Wilson, maintenance technician, directed emergency responders to the wounded from the parking lot

Julie Wilson, counselor, provided counseling to employees and students

others still to be identified