

# Managing Your Facilities



Monthly Newsletter of the National School Plant Management Association  
February 2017



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Mike Mertens, Board President

[The National Facilities Masters Conference](#) is fast approaching! This year's conference is a joint effort between [NSPMA](#) and [School Dude](#). This collaboration will provide a great experience for both our attendees and vendors from around the country. The dates of the conference will be from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas Hotel, Spa, and Convention Center located in the center of the Ozark Mountains in beautiful northwest Arkansas.

NSPMA had 28 states representing school plant managers from across the nation at the 2016 conference and hopes to increase this number in 2017. Conference benefits include presentations that will focus on a "Facilities Masters" track that will feature numerous topics on Facility Management & Preventive Maintenance, Energy Management, Human Resources, Green Schools, Facility & Grounds Operations, School Safety, and Custodial topics. Conference rates are very reasonable for a national conference. Registration is \$150 with a \$50 discount if you are from an affiliate state. Room rates are \$125 which includes a full breakfast.

For current SchoolDude clients and those interested in learning more about their programs, there will be quite a number of breakout sessions on topics such as "Using Account Reviews and Data to Justify Staff, Budget, and Projects." In collaboration with the Arkansas School Plant Management Association, there will be certification classes offered through ASPMA's Certified Facility Director program on topics such as Risk Management, School Plant Operations, and Basics of Building Systems.

There are many opportunities for our conference attendees and partners to make new friends in the facility management world and to learn new things through our breakout sessions. We will have excellent speakers who will talk about a range of topics so that everyone should be able to learn something new from the conference and hopefully apply that knowledge to real-world applications.

As we move forward in the next few months, please do not hesitate to check out our website @ [nspma.org](http://nspma.org). The association also has the capability to give exemplary customer service to our vendors and participants. You can speak to our association secretary, Sherry Jennings, five days a week. Sherry will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Office hours are from 7:30am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Sherry can be contacted directly at 757-547-0489. Her email is [sherry.jennings@cpschools.com](mailto:sherry.jennings@cpschools.com)

NSPMA hopes that you get involved with our association and join us in Rogers for our 2017 National Conference.....and to enjoy the great spring weather in the beautiful Ozark Mountains!

Looking forward to seeing each of you in Arkansas,

*Mike*

Mike Mertens  
2016/2017 NSPMA President

# MOBILIZE Your School Safety Plans



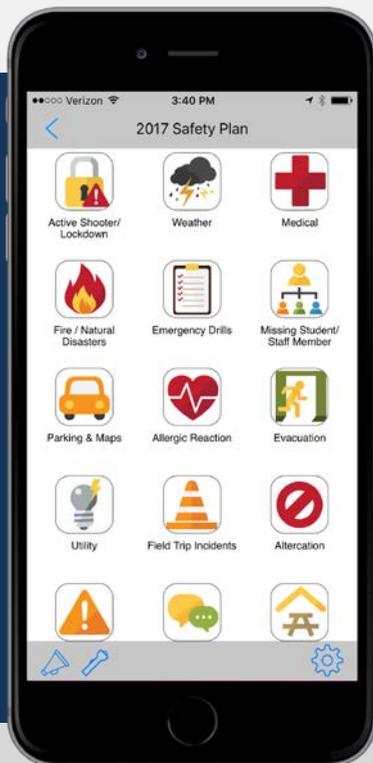
**NOW that the spring semester has begun, your campus and buildings will once again be flooded with students and staff. Classes and after-hour events will resume, but it's also a reminder for you to stay on top of your safety plans.**

## Getting READY for a New Semester

From natural disasters to bullying to smaller incidents like playground injuries, you've most likely already got a plan in place that's carefully thought out. However, it's always good to review and refresh so that you've optimized safety at your district. Some of our key tips for keeping your safety plans updated include:

- Holding mock campus security drills at least twice a year to prepare staff for emergency situations
- Updating your safety plan to reflect changes made throughout the previous year and lessons learned from your mock security drills
- Assessing safety equipment such as cameras, emergency call boxes, fire extinguishers, etc. to ensure they are in proper working order
- Getting staff and students involved for notifications of potential safety threats in the classroom, such as student violence or regulation violations

But if you're still relying on paper plans, it can be difficult and costly to update your data and get the information out to everyone who needs it – and that's where mobile can help.



## MOBILIZE Your Safety

Almost everyone has a smartphone these days, so why not take advantage of those devices? Some of the best benefits of a mobile safety plan include:

- Real-time information sent out with push notifications
- Safety plans stored digitally, making them easier to access and update
- Students and staff have easy access to the info they need immediately
- Temporary plans for activities like events are easy to create and make available to those who need it

A mobile safety app has a multitude of benefits that can aid in not only getting out information and updates on a situation to everyone at a district but also help you receive on-the-ground data such as teacher inspections and student reports. With the push of a button from the app, anyone who has been granted access can send a notification to administration about an emergency on campus.

## Plans at Your FINGERTIPS

Using a mobile safety platform, like [SchoolDude's CrisisManager](#), allows you to update response procedures in real-time, including building diagrams, campus maps, and emergency phone numbers. Your school's safety plans are also available with or without a Wi-Fi connection, are fully customizable, and password-protected. With a wide variety of emergency categories, you'll be able to upload plans for almost any scenario, from inclement weather to a bomb threat. **For more information, we invite you to [check out SchoolDude's website](#).**

## VA School District Partnership Leads to Major Solar Tech Project



*The photovoltaic Rooftop Solar System was created by a Virginia Public School District and Dominion Virginia Power Partnership.*



**John A. Bailey, Ph.D.**

Dominion Virginia Power, Standard Solar and Chesapeake Public schools recently partnered to install more than 3,000 photovoltaic solar panels on the rooftop of Western Branch High School in Chesapeake, VA.

Western Branch High School became the first school to participate in Dominion Virginia Power's Solar Partnership Program. Dominion Virginia Power chose this high school based on several conditions that were needed to make the project a success. One condition was having a new flat roof and the other component included the relationship to the energy grid that Dominion Virginia Power wanted to supply power to.

The partnership allows Dominion Virginia Power to

lease the rooftop space for a minimum of 15 years with an option to expand five years thereafter. The electricity generated from the panels goes directly to the Dominion Power Grid. There was extensive planning that took place including the layout design of the panels on the roof.

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**This rooftop system has the capability to generate almost one megawatt of energy. The electricity generated can produce enough energy to supply power to over 250 homes.**

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This is important to ensure access needed for maintenance crews. The panels have a wind rating of up to 140 miles per hour.

Another benefit of this partnership is the educational component. Dominion Power Included training for teachers along with related materials designed to provide a hands-on learning approach so students will have a better understanding of solar-generated energy. The program also

provided two interactive kiosks in the school, which allow students and stakeholders to review live energy data along with other energy tools and designations for energy uses. The link for the school can be found at [www.solarems.net/kiosks/396](http://www.solarems.net/kiosks/396).

There are resources and grants that allow school divisions to be creative in ways of supporting sustainable and renewable energy sources. The students at Western Branch High in Chesapeake get to experience this first hand. Solar and wind energy initiatives are still growing in interest and understanding. It is important to continue to expose students and communities to the future of renewable energy sources that help our environment.

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*John A. Bailey, Ph.D. is Director of school plants for Chesapeake Public Schools in VA, NSPMA past president, and VA School Plant Managers Association president.*

*Article reprinted from School Planning & Management with permission. Photo courtesy of Downtown Virginia Power.*

*To contact Dr. Bailey for more information, email [john.bailey@cpschools.com](mailto:john.bailey@cpschools.com).*

## Kentucky-Tennessee Workshop Held in Pigeon Forge

Pigeon Forge, TN was the site of this year's Kentucky-Tennessee School Facilities Workshop and Vendor Show. This year's event contained timely training on a wide range of topics, a large number of vendors, and a number of conference attendees from Tennessee and Kentucky.

Session highlights included timely information on the benefits of building automation and controls, creating a better environment in the classroom, wireless lighting controls, custodial tips for efficiency, and standards for safe roof design.

Once again, vendor partners stepped up to make the workshop and tradeshow possible, exposing attendees to the latest in equipment, supplies, and techniques while, at the same time, emphasizing the crucial importance of professional development in the school facilities field. Networking with others involved in school facilities is always an added, valuable perk for events such as this.



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