

Hilton nixes plan to arm school security guards

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The Hilton Central School District is no longer considering having armed security guards.

Superintendent Casey Kosiorek recommended that the Board of Education end its consideration to arm youth assistants Tuesday night, according to a statement.

The proposal, which has now failed, would have given youth assistants the ability to have a concealed firearm, only to be drawn in the event of a school shooting situation, according to David Inzana, Hilton's director of safety and security.

An armed youth assistant would have been placed at each elementary and middle school and three at the high school.

Currently, Hilton's security guards, or youth assistants, are part-time, per diem employees who earn \$22 an hour with no provided benefits. Hilton's current youth assistants all have more than 20 years in law enforcement.

The school board was set to vote in June but postponed its vote. Through community forums and online resources, families and stakeholders were able to ask questions and voice their opinions. The proposal drew concerns among community members as they questioned whether guns would make schools more safe or less safe.

"Moving forward, the District will work to enhance its school safety and emergency response plans, and continue its efforts to build a positive school climate that includes relationships of trust, respect, and open communication among students and staff," the statement said.

The district wrote that while opinions varied, there was a common goal to ensure a safe and secure environment for students, staff and visitors.

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David Inzana, director of security for the Hilton Central School District, mentions ID passes as he speaks during a recent public meeting at Merton Williams Middle School on the possibility of Hilton schools potentially getting armed guards. CARLOS ORTIZ/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE