

US School District Arms Teachers with Baseball Bats

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Category : Education/Family

Unlocking Word Meanings

Read the following words/expressions found in today’s article.

- 1. **contingency** / kənˈtɪn dʒən si / (n) – an event that is likely to happen
Example: We need to be ready for every **contingency**.
- 2. **lockdown** / ˈlɒk daʊn / (n) – a security plan wherein people are not allowed to enter or leave an area
Example: The school was under **lockdown** during the shooting incident.
- 3. **stance** / stæns / (n) – a person’s opinion or position toward an issue
Example: I have a negative **stance** on violence.
- 4. **break in** / breɪk ɪn / (phrasal) – to enter a place without permission
Example: The building’s management tightened up its security measures to prevent criminals from **breaking in**.
- 5. **intruder** / ɪnˈtrud ə / (n) – a person who forces an entry to a place
Example: The **intruder** entered the house through the window.

Article

Read the text below.

A school district in Pennsylvania, United States, has equipped 500 teachers with mini baseball bats as a safety measure.

Millcreek Township School District (MTSD) spent a total of \$1,800 for 16-inch bats that were provided to all teachers as a tool for defense. The MTSD also facilitated a training session for teachers to teach them what to do should a shooting happen inside schools. These initiatives were implemented after the shooting incident at a high school in Parkland, Florida, last February.

MTSD superintendent William Hall explained that the mini bats could be a weapon against an attacker. The bats will also serve as a reminder for teachers to fight back and do everything they can to defend themselves and their students. Hall added that the bats are part of a **contingency** plan and will be used only in the event of a **lockdown**.

In addition to distributing bats to teachers, the MTSD also tightened up its security measures in school entrances and built a barricade around school walkways.

The MTSD is not the only school district in Pennsylvania that took a defensive **stance** toward school shooting incidents. Last March, Blue Mountain School District (BMSD) decided to arm not only its teachers but also its students with rocks. All classrooms in BMSD schools have a five-gallon bucket of river stones, which can be used the moment an attacker **breaks in**.

BMSD officials believe that throwing rocks at armed **intruders** is better than other safety measures like crawling under desks. This is because using rocks allows teachers and students to protect themselves from attacks.

Viewpoint Discussion

Enjoy a discussion with your tutor.

Discussion A

- Do you think that arming the teachers with bats and rocks is a good move? Why or why not?

