



## **Caddo Sheriff proposes arming some school faculty**

Thursday, February 22, 2018

*Posted by Cindy Chadwick - (318) 681-0666*

In an e-mail to Caddo Parish School Board members today, Sheriff Steve Prator asked that they consider allowing armed faculty in parish schools.

"Our schools currently brag of being "firearm free" zones, literally an invitation for armed evil doers," the Sheriff said. "Most of our school's have one armed "guard," but there are times when that person is distracted or unavailable. I am recommending that certain faculty members be allowed to possess weapons on campuses. These persons would have exhaustive background and psychological vetting. Once accepted, they would undergo extensive training and further determinations of suitability."

Prator said his proposal is not for everyone, "but we have people in schools that have military and law enforcement backgrounds, those who have more confidence in their ability to handle a weapon under stressful conditions. These are the people we should look at," he said.

The Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office and its Regional Training Academy could assist with training and screening individuals.

"Everybody talks after each shooting, and nothing ever gets done," Prator said. "We can't wait on Washington or Congress to solve a local problem when we have the resources to take action ourselves."



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HAND DELIVERED

## SHERIFFS OF CADDO PARISH

- ALEXANDER BOYD STERRETT  
1838-1840
- MATTHEW WATSON  
1840-1857
- THOMAS R. SIMPSON  
1857-1858  
1865-1868
- HENRY JOHN GREY BATTLE  
1859-1860
- NATHAN HASS  
1860-1862
- ISRAEL W. PICKENS  
1862-1865
- JOHN J. HOPE  
1868
- JOHN J. O'CONNOR  
1868-1869
- MICHAEL A. WALSH  
1869-1875
- JAMES W. WILSON  
1875-1876
- WILLIAM HEFFNER  
1876-1877
- ALENGO FLOURNOY  
1877-1878
- J.D. CANTORNE  
1879
- JOHN LAKE  
1879-1892
- JOHN S. YOUNG  
1892-1900
- SAMUEL J. WARD  
1900-1906
- J.P. "PAT" FLOURNOY  
1906-1916
- THOMAS ROLAND HUGHES  
1916-1940
- J. HOWELL FLOURNOY  
1940-1966
- JAMES W. GOSLIN  
1966-1976
- HAROLD TERRY  
1976-1980
- DONALD E. HATHAWAY  
1980-2000
- STEVE PRATOR  
2000

Mr. Steve Riall  
President & Individual Caddo Parish School Board Members  
Caddo Parish School Board  
1961 Midway  
Shreveport, LA 71108

Dear Mr. Riall & Individual Caddo Parish School Board Members,

Thanks for the work each of you do for the citizens of Caddo Parish. Your commitment to the children served by the school system is evident.

The latest deadly school shooting occurred in Florida a few days ago, as you are aware. The national conversation is on gun control, background checks, and mental illness. This same conversation is held in the aftermath of each deadly event, and over the years much has been said and little done.

Our schools currently brag of being "firearm free" zones, literally an invitation for armed evildoers. Most of our schools have one armed "guard", but there are times when that person is distracted or unavailable. I am recommending that certain faculty members be allowed to possess weapons on campuses. These persons would have exhaustive background and psychological vetting. Once accepted, they would undergo extensive training and further determinations of suitability.

Legally possessed guns are allowed in the grocery stores and malls where our children frequent. Why then are legally possessed guns not allowed on school campuses, where our children are most at risk?

I offer our services and assistance. We have the best training staff anywhere and know what it takes to not only determine the suitability of candidates, but to make sure they are prepared.

I recommend we proceed with putting some meat on the skeleton that I have proposed and I await your invitation.

Sincerely,

Steve Prator  
Sheriff

SP/fy

cc: Superintendent Goree

SHERIFF AND EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR  
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