NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE
Achieves

Weapons Detection Systems Pilot Overview

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Chief Operations Officer

February 25, 2025

SAFE IN NEWTON



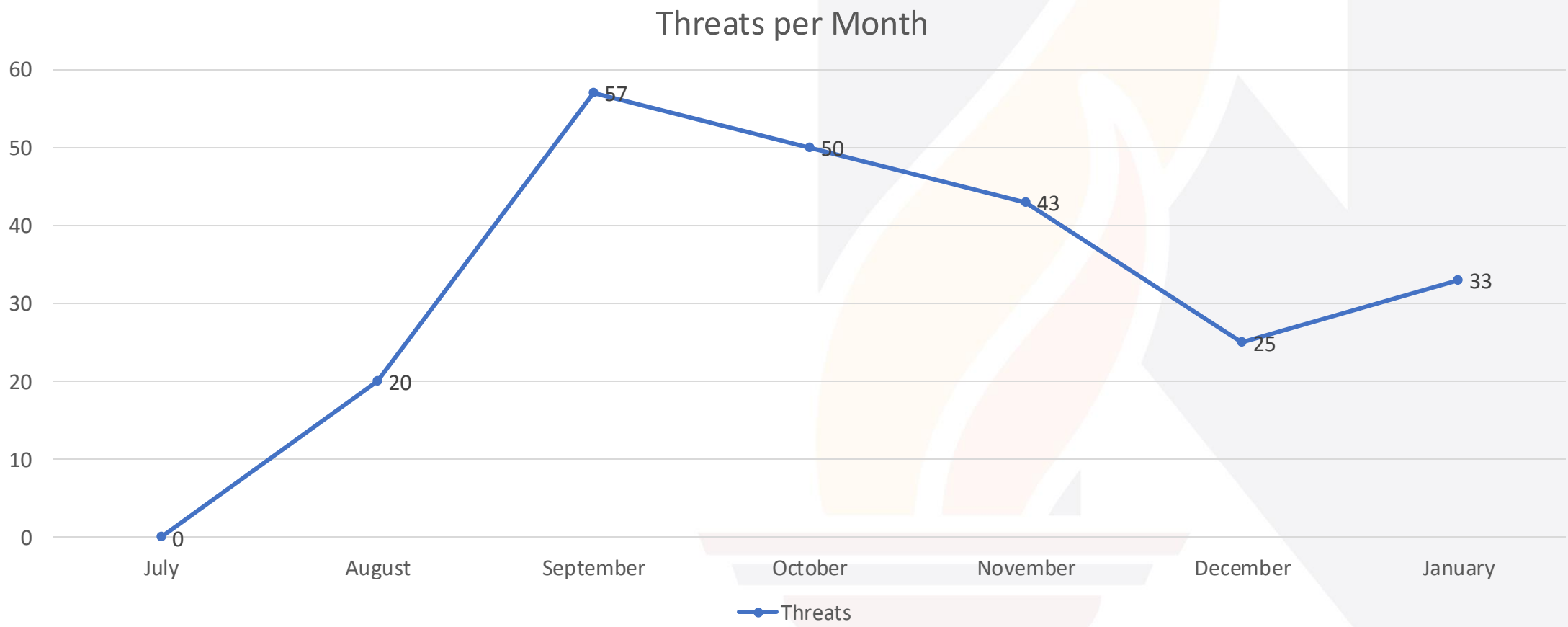
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Background

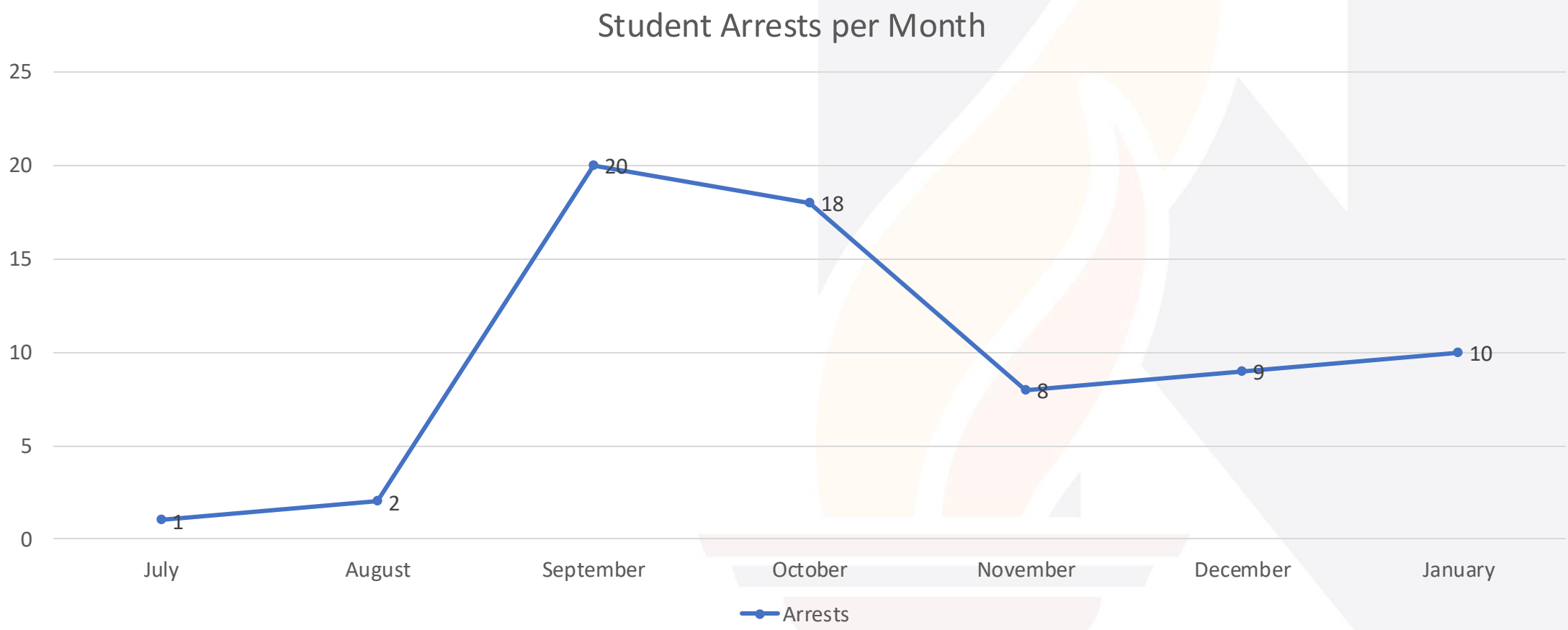
Two incidents raised concerns about school safety at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

- **August 23, 2024: Weapon Recovered at Sharp Stadium**
  - A weapon was recovered during an athletic event.
- **September 4, 2024: Apalachee High School Shooting**
  - Sparked an increase in statewide threats and heightened focus on school safety.
  - The district ensured strong disciplinary actions in response to threats.

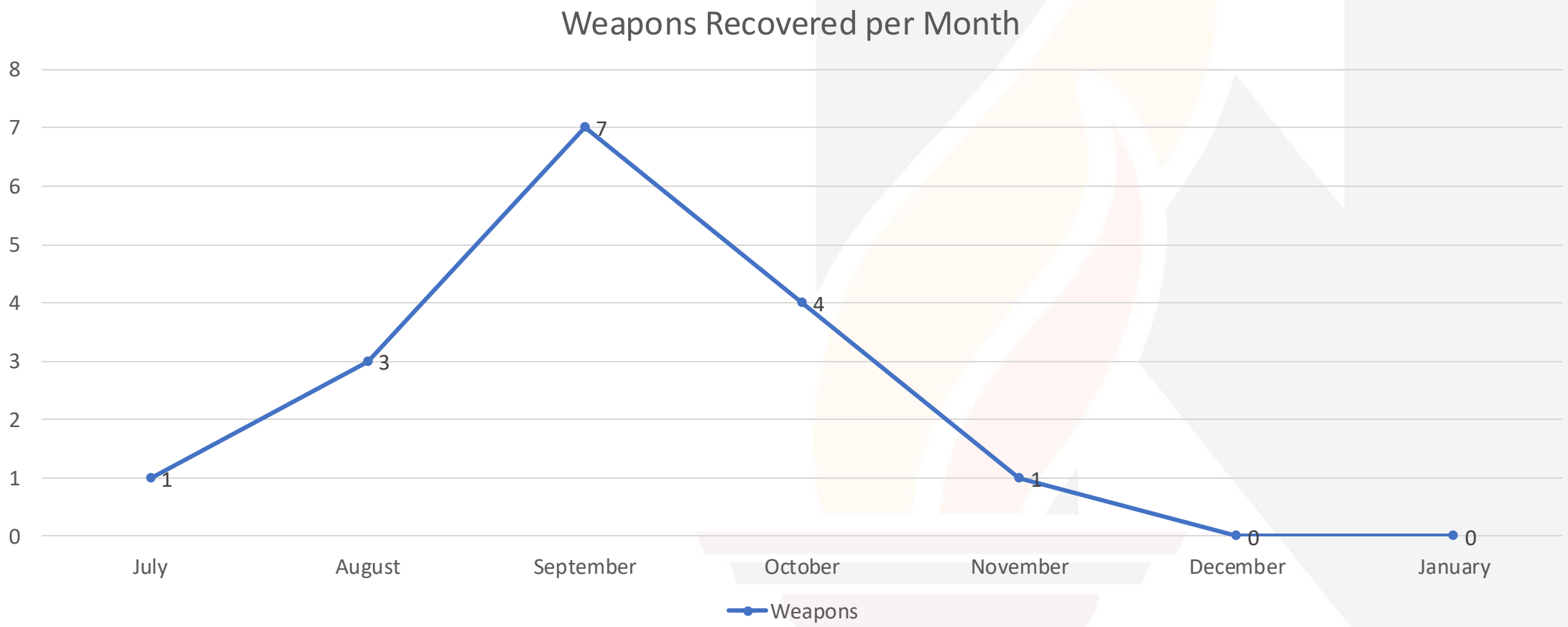
Review of the Data: Threats



Review of the Data: Arrests



Review of the Data: Weapons on Campus



Weapons Detection at Sharp Stadium



September 17, 2024: BOE Authorized Purchase of Weapons Detection System for Sharp Stadium

- The weapons detection system was purchased to enhance safety and security for all attendees at Sharp Stadium.

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Community Input on School Safety



September 18, 2024: Hosted Community-Wide Safe Schools Forum

- Shared information on safety, security, and mental health support systems.
- Engaged with the community on critical school safety measures, fostering collaboration and open dialogue to address urgent concerns.

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Weapons Detection at Sharp Stadium



November 5, 2024: Weapons Detection System Implemented at Sharp Stadium

- Weapons detection systems were successfully deployed at Sharp Stadium on November 5, 2024, enhancing event security.
- Additional event staff were required to ensure smooth operations, helping refine logistics and staffing strategies for future implementations.

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Community Input on School Safety

Survey Results
93%



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The Newton County Board of Education recently approved new safety enhancements at Sharp Stadium by adding new weapons detection systems for outdoor events. Now, the Board is seeking feedback on the potential for additional safety measures within our schools. To assess community interest in implementing these measures, we invite you to complete this brief survey. Your input will help guide the Board's decisions on future safety initiatives.

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Take our Safety Survey

* Do you support the installation of a traditional weapons detection system (metal detectors) in all middle and high schools?
- Yes
- No

* Do you support the mandatory use of clear bookbags for students?
- Yes
- No

* Do you support an expansion of the district's school resource officer program which provides armed officers in schools?
- Yes
- No

Are there any additional safety enhancements you would like the Newton County Board of Education to consider (ex. technology enhancements, unarmed security personnel, etc.)?

November 4-8, 2024: Launched Community School Safety Survey

- Conducted a survey to gather input on potential safety measures.
- The survey collected community feedback to inform the next steps.
- 93% of respondents supported the use of weapons detection systems in middle and high schools.

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Weapons Detection at Sharp Stadium

December 2, 2024: BOE Authorized the Purchase of a Weapons Detection System for a Pilot

The objective of the Pilot:

To assess the feasibility and efficacy of implementing weapons detection systems in our school system, through a 90-day pilot of the OpenGate system at all NCS middle and high schools.

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Pilot Timeline

Key Actions	Date	Status
Meetings with principals and site assessments.	December 2024	Completed
Train-the-Trainer: Safety team training & preparation of district trainers.	February 10-14, 2025	Completed
Finalize Logistics: Confirm equipment, entry procedures, and staffing.	February 17-21, 2025	Completed
School & End-User Training: Training for staff & practice runs.	February 24-28, 2025	Scheduled
Communications: Notification to parents, and community.	February 24-28, 2025	Scheduled
Go-Live: Pilot Launch - Random screenings begin, monitored by safety teams.	March 3 -7, 2025	Pending
Monitoring & Adjustments: Track system performance, and gather feedback.	March-May, 2025	Pending
End of Pilot Review	June, 2025	Pending

Layered Approach to School Safety

People, Plans, and Procedures

Investments and Infrastructure

Code of Conduct

Mental Health Supports

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Weapons Detection Systems Pilot Overview

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Questions

STRONG FOUNDATION BRIGHT FUTURE

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