



HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

5832 Bolsa Avenue • Huntington Beach, California 92649
(714) 903-7000 FAX (714) 372-8105

Board of Trustees:
Bonnie Castrey
Duane Dishno
Susan Henry
Kathleen Iverson
Michael Simons

Clint Harwick, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

June 22, 2018

The Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

RE: 2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury Report
Safer Schools - What Can We Do?
Response of the Huntington Beach Union High School District

To the Honorable Charles Margines:

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested that the Huntington Beach Union High School District respond to findings and recommendations in the 2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury report entitled: "*Safer Schools – What Can We Do?*"

FINDINGS

F.1. School safety and security are priorities in every school district in the Orange County public school system.

Response to F.1.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District agrees with this finding. School safety and security are a priority in the Huntington Beach Union High School District.*

F.2. The implementation of security measures for schools, in many cases, is limited by funding.

Response to F.2.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District agrees with this finding. The extent to which our school can implement the type and extent of security measures is often dependent on funding.*

F.3. Many Orange County school campuses were constructed to reflect an "open and inviting" atmosphere but are now faced with physical and philosophical security issues that challenge this thinking.

Response to F.3.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District agrees with this finding. Of the schools within our district, all can be considered to reflect an "open and inviting" atmosphere.*

F.4. While every Orange County school district reported the use of a campus visitor sign-in process, there is a lack of procedural consistency among school campuses.

Response to F.4.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District disagrees in part with this finding as it pertains to its schools. All sites in the Huntington Beach Union High School District follow a consistent visitor sign in at reception.*

F.5.: Many districts or school campuses do not require all teachers, staff, and volunteers to wear ID badges while on campus, making identification of authorized personnel difficult for substitute teachers, student teachers, visitors, volunteers, and first responders.

Response to F.5.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District partially disagrees with the finding. While many schools in our district do not require ID badges, we do not feel it is more difficult to identify authorized personnel while on campus.*

F.6.: Currently, student ID badges, which could easily distinguish students from non-students of similar age, are not required to be worn by Orange County middle and high school students.

Response to F.6.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District partially disagrees with the finding. As it pertains to our schools, some of our campuses require student ID badges; however all students are required to carry an ID card while on campus.*

F.7. Campus personnel and volunteers, while on duty outside the classroom, have an inconsistent usage or availability of communication devices for emergency situations.

Response to F.7.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District disagrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, campus supervision and administrative personnel are all required to, and are furnished with two-way radios. We do not allow volunteers to supervise on our sites.*

F.8.: There is no documentation or reporting protocol within the districts of individual security incidents, making it difficult to track, analyze, and summarize such incidents.

Response to F.8.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District disagrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, individual security incidents which occur during the school day are reported to the principal's and/or assistant principal's office, the district office administration, and to the district safety office. Security incidents which occur during after school hours are reported to the principal, and to the district office through the district safety office.*

F.9.: While every Orange County school develops a school safety plan, few schools have used an individual school security assessment to identify deficiencies or to develop the required plan.

Response to F.9.: *The Huntington Beach Union High School District agrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, we will conduct school security assessments at all our sites, to be completed by the end of the 18-19 school year.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

R.1.: School districts should explore all possible funding resources that may be available in order to implement desired security measures. (F.2.)

Response to R.1.: *The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, after the sites conduct a safety assessment, before the end of the 18-19 school year.*

R.2.: School districts should re-evaluate the lack of secure fencing on all school campuses and present a report to their respective boards by December 31, 2018, outlining their plans to make campuses more secure. (F.2, F.3)

Response to R.2.: *The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented before 31 December, 2018.*

R.3.: School districts should implement procedures to ensure that all campuses maintain a complete, daily log (electronic or manual) of every visitor and volunteer entering and exiting the campus, excluding program events such as awards ceremonies or stage or musical productions. (F.4.)

Response to R.3.: *The current sign-in system is capable of creating badges, which every visitor must wear. The system is also capable of signing visitors out.*

R.4.: School districts should implement procedures to ensure that photo identification is required of all campus visitors and volunteers before a visitor's badge is issued. (F.4, F.5.)

Response to R.4.: *The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented during the 18-19 school year.*

R.5.: School districts should implement procedures to ensure that all faculty and staff are required to wear visible photo ID badges while on campus. (F.5.)

Response to R.5.: *The recommendation requires further analysis as it pertains to fiscal feasibility and a factual increase in workplace and campus safety. The analysis will be completed by the end of the 18-19 school year.*

R.6.: All school districts with middle or high school campuses should consider using student ID cards in a format to be worn as student ID badges while on campus. (F.6.)

Response to R.6.: *The recommendation requires further analysis as it pertains to fiscal feasibility and a factual increase in workplace and campus safety. The analysis will be completed by the end of the 18-19 school year.*

R.7.: School districts should evaluate available communication devices and ensure that custodial and supervisory personnel, as well as safety resource officers, playground supervisors

and coaches, have two-way radios or equivalent communication devices with them at all times, enabling instant two-way communication with the office. (F.7.)

Response to R.7.: *The recommendation has been implemented. School site supervisory, custodial, and administrative staff all carry two-way radios.*

R.8.: School districts should consider requiring that all campus incidents of unauthorized access be recorded, tracked, and reported to the district office on a quarterly basis. All districts should share these reports with the Orange County Department of Education. (F.8.)

Response to R.8.: *This recommendation has been implemented. Individual security incidents which occur during the school day are reported to the principal's and/or assistant principal's office, the district office administration, and to the district safety office. Security incidents which occur during after school hours are reported to the principal, and to the district office through the district safety office. HBUHSD will share the reports with the Orange County Department of Education when OCDE establishes a procedure for doing so.*

R.9.: School districts should evaluate requiring each school to perform a school security assessment to evaluate their current school safety plan. (F.9)

Response to R.9.: *This recommendation has not yet been implemented; however the HBUHSD will conduct school security assessments at all our sites in the coming school year, to be completed by the end of the 18-19 school year.*

Sincerely,



Dan Bryan, Director of Student Services,
Huntington Beach Union High School District

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701