

FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

June 26, 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 Fullerton Joint 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 Fullerton Joint 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 Fullerton Joint Union High School District (District) agrees with this finding. School safety and security are a priority in the District.

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

Response to F.2.: The District somewhat agrees with this finding. The extent to which our District can implement the type and extent of security measures is often dependent on funding, although with our Bond Measure we have been able to make physical changes. As it is a priority, District funds have also been used to send administrative staff members to the Annual Safe Schools Conference, purchase the Raptor Visitor Check-in software and hardware for each school site, and purchase a District App that allows students and staff members to report suspicious behavior anonymously through the App.

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 District agrees with this finding. Of the schools within our District, six of the seven high schools can be considered to reflect an "open and inviting" atmosphere. The campuses do not have fencing surrounding 100% of the campus and do not have a single point of

Response of Fullerton Joint Union High School District
June 26, 2018
Page 2

entry. It is still the opinion of District leadership that additional fencing and a single point of entry may create a sense of security, but in looking at previous incidents of school violence, it is not always the best defense.

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 District disagrees with this finding as it pertains to its schools. A specific procedural protocol is in place at all District schools.

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 District agrees somewhat with this finding as it pertains to its schools. Badges have been provided for all District staff members and students. The requirement to wear the ID badges at all times has not been fully implemented at every school site. The requirement for all staff members and students to wear their ID badges at all times has been fully implemented at three of the seven schools in the District.

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 District disagrees with this finding as it pertains to its schools. All District students are issued student ID badges and a safe, break-away lanyard meant to be worn during school days. The compliance of students wearing their ID badges every day is a work in progress.

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 District disagrees with this finding as it pertains to our schools. Campus personnel and volunteers have cell phones, some District provided, and some personally owned. All District administrators, campus security personnel, and custodians are provided private-channel walkie-talkies in addition to their cell phones.

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 of Fullerton Joint Union High School District
June 26, 2018
Page 3

Response to F.8.: The District disagrees with this finding. Security incident handling is a set of continuous processes governing the activities that take place before, during and after a security incident occurs. Security incident handling begins with planning and preparing the right resources, then developing the proper procedures to be followed, such as the escalation and security incident response procedures. When a security incident is detected, a security incident response is set in motion by the responsible parties, following predefined procedures. When the incident is over, follow up action is taken to evaluate the incident, strengthen security protection and prevent a recurrence. As it pertains to our schools, there is a reporting protocol for all threats against the school campus. There is a reporting protocol in place for all student incidents which affect student safety. There is a reporting protocol in place for all acts of violent student behavior.

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 District disagrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, the District-wide and site-specific school safety plans contain individual security assessment procedures.

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, as funding opportunities become available.

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 requires further analysis. The recommendation assumes that secure fencing on all school campuses is a guarantee of student and staff member safety. Without proof of such an assurance, the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and is not reasonable. The Board of Trustees will discuss the issue and make the appropriate determination of need.

Response of Fullerton Joint Union High School District
June 26, 2018
Page 4

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 recommendation has been implemented.

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 been implemented.

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 has been partially implemented and will be fully implemented during the 2018/19 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 has been partially implemented and will be fully implemented during the 2018/19 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.

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.: The recommendation has been partially implemented in that all campus incidents of unauthorized access are reported to the Superintendent's office; however, a system of quarterly reporting to the Board or OCDE has not been established. It is the opinion of District leadership that if this reporting to OCDE becomes a requirement, a system be established by OCDE with clear reporting guidelines and a timeline for such reports.

2017-2018 Orange County Grand Jury Report
Safer Schools - What Can We Do?

Response of Fullerton Joint Union High School District
June 26, 2018
Page 5

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.: The recommendation has been implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Scambray', written in a cursive style.

V. Scott Scambray, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools
Fullerton Joint Union High School District

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