

DR. SUE JOHNSON  
SUPERINTENDENT

# Savanna School District

1330 SOUTH KNOTT AVENUE  
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA 92804-4798  
PHONE: (714) 236-3800

July 10, 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 Savanna School District

To the Honorable Charles Margines:

In accordance with California Penal Code section 933.05, the Orange County Grand Jury has requested that Savanna 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 Savanna School District agrees with this finding. School safety and security are a priority in Savanna School District.

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

### **Response to F.2.:**

The Savanna 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 Savanna School District agrees with this finding. However, while we want our schools to reflect an "open and inviting" atmosphere, we have an obligation to keep our students safe. All of our schools have perimeter fencing with one entry point.

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.:**

While the Savanna School District cannot speak for other Districts in Orange County, we disagree with this finding for schools in Savanna. All of our sites utilize a visitor sign-in system that requires all adults enter through the school office. Those who wish to go on campus are required to produce a valid government-issued ID (driver's license or ID card) and are screened against the registered sex offender databases in all fifty states and provided with a visitor ID badge prior to entering the campus.

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.:**

While the Savanna School District cannot speak for other Districts in Orange County, we disagree with this finding for schools in Savanna. All of our sites require teachers, staff, substitute staff members, student teachers, visitors, and volunteers to wear District-issued ID badges.

**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 Savanna School District agrees with this finding, although as an elementary school district we do not have middle or high school students.

**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:**

While the Savanna School District cannot speak for other Districts in Orange County, we disagree with this finding for schools in Savanna. All of our sites use two-way radios for staff on duty. In addition, any staff member is able to place the school into a 'lock down' status from any campus phone should they perceive an emergency exists.

**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 Savanna School District agrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, we will implement a system beginning in the 2018-19 school year that will include incident reporting features.

**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.:**

While the Savanna School District cannot speak for other Districts in Orange County, we disagree with this finding for schools in Savanna. We work closely with local law enforcement to walk our sites, review our safety plans, and assist in the refinement of plans.

## **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 been implemented, with a copy of a letter to staff, dated October 4, 2017 outlining many safety features, attached. This document was provided to the Grand Jury during the interview process.

**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.:**

All of our schools have perimeter fencing with one entry point. Information on our school safety features are presented to our Board on a regular basis, provided to parents through letters home, and identified on our website.

**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.:**

All of our sites utilize a visitor sign-in system that requires all adults enter through the school office. Those visitors or volunteers who wish to go on campus are required to produce a valid government-issued ID (driver's license or ID card) and are screened against the registered sex offender databases in all fifty states and provided with a visitor ID badge prior to entering the campus. Electronic logs of all visits, with name, date, time in and time out, are maintained.

**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.:**

All of our sites utilize a visitor sign-in system that requires all adults enter through the school office. Those non-staff members who wish to go on campus are required to produce a valid government-issued ID (driver's license or

ID card) and are screened against the registered sex offender databases in all fifty states and provided with a visitor ID badge prior to entering the campus.

**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.:**

All of our sites require teachers, staff, substitute staff members, student teachers, visitors, and volunteers to wear District-issued ID badges.

**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.:**

As an elementary school district we do not have any middle or high school students. Accordingly, this recommendation does not apply to us.

**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.:**

All of our sites use two-way radios for staff on duty, including custodial and supervisory personnel when children are out on the playground.

**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 visitor sign-in system utilized in Savanna is equipped with immediate alerts, sent via text message to District and site-level administrators in real time, when a person's ID produces a 'red flag' when attempting to enter a school campus. District administrators are immediately dispatched to the site to assist. All sites are equipped with the ability to put the school into an immediate lock down and notify law enforcement should an unauthorized person attempt to enter the campus.

**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 Savanna School District will continue to work closely with local law enforcement agencies to review and refine school safety plans. The District has worked systematically to ensure that each school campus is as safe as possible. In an effort to continue to ensure the safety of all of our campuses, we have implemented a number of measures at all of our sites and will continue to monitor security needs at each site and respond appropriately.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Sue Johnson, Superintendent

  
Mrs. Linda Weinstock, Board President

  
Mr. John Shook, Board Vice-President

  
Mrs. Tina Karanick, Board Clerk

  
Mr. Edward Erdtsieck, Board Member

  
Mrs. Chris Brown, Board Member

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

DR. SUE JOHNSON  
SUPERINTENDENT

# Savanna School District

October 4, 2017

1330 SOUTH KNOTT AVENUE  
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA 92804-4798  
PHONE: (714) 236-3800

TO: Savanna Staff  
FROM: Administrative Team  
RE: School Safety

As we reflect on the incidents that have occurred in and around our extended community over the past week, it's important to know that we take our commitment to students, staff and our community safety very seriously. We have consistently undertaken measures to ensure the safety of our schools in the past and will continue to do so. While we want our campuses to be welcoming and inviting places, we have an obligation to provide the safest possible environment for our students and staff members.

With the understanding that no community is immune from a tragic incident, the District has worked systematically to ensure that each school campus is as safe as possible. In an effort to continue to ensure the safety of all of our campuses, we have implemented the following measures at all of our sites:

**Perimeter Fencing**—Perimeter fencing with a 1" mesh has been installed throughout each campus.

**Single Point of Entry**—Access to each campus is limited to one access point; the entry gate is monitored each morning by an adult to ensure visitors are directed to check in through the office.

**Security Cameras** - Security cameras have been installed throughout each campus; while there is no audio and no cameras inside classrooms, these cameras have proven to be extremely useful in helping deter crime.

**Visitor Check in System**—This system enhances school security by reading visitor drivers' licenses, comparing the information to a sex offender database, alerting campus administrators if a match is found; if no match was found, a visitor badge is printed that includes a photo. All visitors on a school site are to have a visitor badge.

**Staff ID Badges**—Staff members will be asked to wear their Savanna School District ID badge while on school campuses. Lanyards or clips will be available from the school office to allow staff to display the badge.

**Paging Systems**—Each site is equipped with a paging system that can be accessed from any site phone to make announcements or place the site into a 'secure campus' mode.

**Paging Gates**—In order to allow access to before and after school child care programs, each campus has been equipped with one identified paging system that is controlled by staff in those programs to open specific gates.

**Emergency Notification Systems**—Each classroom has a 'panic button' that can be utilized in an emergency to open an immediate line of communication with the school office.

**911 Notification Systems**—Each office has a system in place that will allow staff to send a silent alarm to the 911 dispatcher in the event of an emergency.

**Classroom Door Locks**—Each classroom has exterior doors that can be locked from the inside, alleviating the need to open the door to lock it.

**Enhanced Fire Alarm Systems**—During the modernization projects at sites, the fire alarm systems were enhanced, updated and are fully automated and monitored.

**Increased Security Lighting**—After hours, each campus is lit with security lighting to ensure the continued safety and security of those working and to deter crime.

**Remote Locking Doors**— Each school office will be equipped with the ability for staff to remotely lock the front entry door in the event of an emergency or unwanted visitor; this is complete at Hansen and nearly complete at all other sites.

**Security Film on Front Windows**—Safety & security film has been installed on the front windows and doors of each site to deter break-ins and impede unwanted entry when the front doors are locked.

**Monitored Security Systems**—Each site has a security system that is monitored after hours and on weekends.

**Park Ranger Patrols**—Through the Anaheim Police Department, Park Rangers patrol campuses on weekends and holidays.

**Partnership with Local Police Departments** – Safety at each school has been enhanced through established relationships with our local police departments.

Because student and staff safety are paramount, we are continually assessing the safety and security needs of our campuses. Together, we will be able to continue to ensure our schools are safe and secure learning environments.