

HUNTINGTON BEACH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

17011 Beach Blvd., Suite 560, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 (714) 964-8888

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July 31, 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 City School District

ADMINISTRATION

Gregory Haulk
Superintendent

Jennifer Shepard
Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services

Patricia Hager
Assistant Superintendent
Human Resources

Jon M. Archibald
Assistant Superintendent
Administrative Services

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 City 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 City School District agrees with this finding. School safety and security are a priority in the Huntington Beach City School District.

F.2.

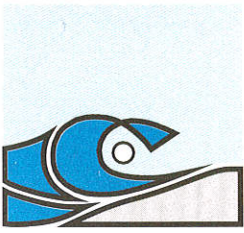
The implementation of security measures for schools, in many cases, is limited by funding.

Response to F.2.:

The Huntington Beach City 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.



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Response to F.3.:

The Huntington Beach City School District agrees with this finding. Of the schools within our district, all school sites are considered to have an open and inviting atmosphere. The implementation of fencing (single point of entry) may alter the public's perception initially, but we feel the increased campus security will outweigh any negative aspect that a fence may present.

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 City School District disagrees with this finding as it pertains to the schools in our district. All of our schools have the same visitor sign-in process and staff members are trained in the application of our process during each school year.

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 City School District agrees with this finding. Although HBCSD employees have ID badges and all substitute teachers, student teachers and visitors are required to sign in and wear their identification, in the past this has not been enforced in a consistent manner.

F.6.:

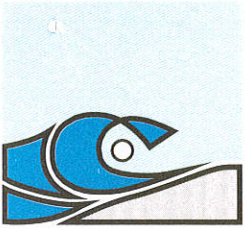
Currently, student ID badges, which could easily distinguish students from non-students of similar age, are not required to be worn by Orange County middle and high school students.

Response to F.6.:

The Huntington Beach City School District agrees with this finding.

F.7.

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



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Response to F.7.:

The Huntington Beach City School District agrees with this finding. While many of the employees that are on duty outside of the classroom have communication devices for emergency situations not all employees on duty have a device.

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 City School District disagrees with this finding. In HBCSD our Director of Child Welfare and Attendance gathers all data for security incidents and has that data available.

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 City School District disagrees wholly with this finding. In the Huntington Beach City School District an internal School Safety Checklist is used by individual schools to help them develop and maintain the School Site Safety Plan on an annual basis.

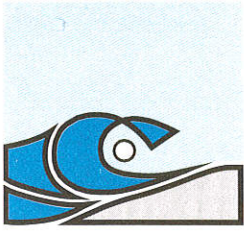
RECOMMENDATIONS

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. In the Huntington Beach City School District, we have prioritized funds from our Bond (Measure Q) to include fencing (single point of entry) and security cameras at all sites that do not currently have them. In addition, we have retained the services of a grant writer to look for any and all grants related to school safety. Lastly, we have also initiated a security and risk assessment by our District Safety Committee in addition to an assessment by Keenan & Associates.



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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 been implemented. At the May 15, 2018 regular Board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved an item amending the agreement with the Architectural firm, BCA Architects to reallocate funds in order to begin the process of fencing every school site which will provide a single point of entry.

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. The district has implemented a web-based visitor management system (Raptor Technologies) which is being installed over the summer break. The system requires all visitors to present valid government photo identification before a visitor's badge is issued. This system keeps a daily log of all visitors who visit a campus.

R.4.:

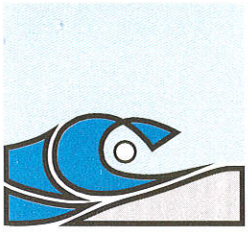
School districts should implement procedures to ensure that photo identification is required of all campus visitors and volunteers before a visitor's badge is issued. (F.4, F.5.)

Response to R.4.:

The recommendation has been implemented. The district has implemented a web-based visitor management system (Raptor Technologies) which is being installed over the summer break. The system requires all visitors to present valid government photo identification before a visitor's badge is issued. This system keeps a daily log of all visitors who visit a 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.)



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Response to R.5.:

This recommendation has been implemented. All staff are required to have their district issued identification worn at all times.

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.:

Although this has been considered at the two middle schools in the Huntington Beach City School District, without a monitor at every door who checks ID badges this would be a never ending task. This policy doesn't consider the difficulty of students forgetting their ID badges and/or losing their badge in addition to badge replacements constantly being needed.

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.:

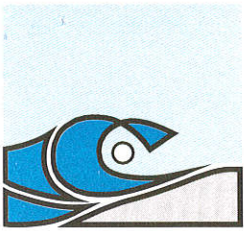
The recommendation has been implemented. In the Huntington Beach City School District, two-way radio communication is provided to noon duty supervisors, custodial staff, and administrators.

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 Huntington Beach City School District tracks and reports incidents of unauthorized access at our schools sites to the District Office. If asked by the Orange County Department of Education, these could be shared in a format that is consistent for all districts.



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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. Schools currently use an internal security checklist to aid in the development of their safety plans. Based on the findings from this study; in addition to the findings by our District Safety Committee, the District replaced the internal checklist with the K-12 school security assessment tool provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Sincerely,

Gregory Haulk, Superintendent
Huntington Beach City School District

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