



[FOR DISTRICTS OPERATING K-12 OR 7-12]

August 1, 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 Brea Olinda Unified School District

To the Honorable Charles Margines:

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

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

Response to F.2.: The Brea Olinda Unified School District agrees with this finding. The extent to which our school District 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 Brea Olinda Unified School District agrees with this finding. Of the schools within our District, eight of our nine campuses can be considered to reflect an "open and inviting" atmosphere with only one campus having a gate that encompasses the school.

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.

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BOARD MEMBERS: Carrie Flanders *President*, Gail Lyons, *Vice President*, Paul Ruiz, *Clerk*, Nicole Colon, Bill R. Hall, Steve Sewell, Rod Todd
ADMINISTRATION: Brad Mason, Ed.D., *Superintendent*, Kerrie Torres, *Asst. Supt/Educational Services*,
Jean Aldrete, *Asst. Supt/Business Services*, Brinda Leon, *Executive Director, Human Resources*

Response to F.4.: The Brea Olinda Unified School District disagrees wholly with this finding as follows: Though physical characteristics and campus layouts differ between schools in the District, our sign-in policies are consistent throughout the District.

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 Brea Olinda Unified School District agrees with this finding and is looking at different ID badging options for employees, visitors and other authorized individuals to wear as identification while on school campuses. The District is looking at piloting a badging option during the 2018-19 school year at multiple school sites.

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 Brea Olinda Unified School District agrees with this finding. Students are not required to wear an ID badge at school.

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 Brea Olinda Unified School District agrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, certain individuals have campus walkie-talkies issued to them as part of their job responsibilities for student supervision. There are a limited number of these on campus and there are no additional ones available during emergency situations. The number we have on campus is fixed.

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 Brea Olinda Unified School District wholly disagrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, our schools fill out an Unusual Occurrence Report form and it is filed with the District's Risk Manager.

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 Brea Olinda Unified School District agrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, however, Brea Police Department works with our schools to identify ways we can

improve site safety and they are involved in reviewing our Site safety Plans and signing off on them.

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 requires ongoing efforts and is a continuous effort by nature we desire to continue to grow in our efforts to increase student safety. The District has attempted and failed at passing two bond measures over the last 8 years and safety issues were a part of each of those bond efforts. The District regularly evaluates the safety of our campuses and makes improvements as our General Fund budget allows.

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 including the cost of installing fencing at the eight schools in the District that are currently non-fenced. The Board initiated a School Facility Master Plan study in the spring of 2018 and fencing was a part of that study. Cost and further discussion will continue related to fencing when we get the Facility Master Plan completed, though no plans to move forward can occur until a funding source is identified to fund the project.

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. Our schools keep a sign-in log in the front office where all visitors are required to sign in and get a visitor sticker before entering campus. Visitors are also required to sign out as they are leaving the 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 not yet been implemented. However, three campuses will be piloting a visitor management system during the 2018-19 school year and the District will be evaluating its utility for all of our schools.

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 discussion with our Human Resources Department and our employee groups. Discussions will be had during the 2018-19 school year to examine the logistics and associated costs of implementing an employee ID badging system for all District employees.

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 and discussion with our secondary principals and staff to determine the logistics and costs associated with this recommendation.

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, with all identified supervisory personnel issued a communication device allowing them to communicate on a daily basis and during an emergency situation.

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 implemented at a District level. This information is not shared with the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) because they do not collect this information. Many incidents are site/district specific and lack relevance at a county level. This information is available, if OCDE wanted to collect this information.

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

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Response to R.9.: The recommendation requires further analysis as it lacks specificity related to performing a school security assessment on a one-time or yearly basis. It is unclear as to who would provide such an assessment and whether there is an established criteria for conducting a school security assessment. Brea Olinda Unified School District will continue to work with Brea Police Department to ensure that our campuses are safe and our Site Safety Plans comply with State requirements.

Sincerely,



Brad Mason, Ed.D.,
Superintendent of Schools
Brea Olinda Unified School District

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