

**PLACENTIA-YORBA LINDA
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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August 24, 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 Placentia-Yorba Linda 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 the Placentia-Yorba Linda 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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding. School safety and security are a priority in the school district and has been identified as one of our five focus areas in our strategic plan.

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

Response to F.2.: The Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified 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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding. The schools within our district 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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding and has taken steps to establish consistent sign in procedures across all campuses.

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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding and has taken steps to establish a badging system across all campuses.

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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District partially agrees with this finding. Student ID badges are not worn by students, however, all secondary students in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School Districts are issued a student identification card which they are required to have in their possession 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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District partially agrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, all security personnel and site administrators carry radios which are used to communicate in emergency situations. Each radio is programmed to the Blue Channel frequency designed for communication with first responders. Volunteers do not have consistent access to communication devices.

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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District disagrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, school personnel use an incident reporting form to report security related incidences. They also use an accident reporting form in the event of an incident resulting in student or staff injury. Both forms are used for tracking such incidents.

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 Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District agrees with this finding. As it pertains to our schools, all schools submit and updated school safety plan. The school security assessment tool has been provided to site administrators as a resource tool. While all sites assess their campus security, they may use a different process to do so.

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 by Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Funding has been allocated to address several safety related initiatives.

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 by Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. A Maintenance and Facilities team has walked every school in the District with a site administrator to assess fencing and gate needs. Two vendor contracts were submitted to the Board in June for review and approval. The contractor is in the process of repairing or adding fencing and gates to improve security.

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 by Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. The District has approved a service agreement with Raptor Technologies to provide a daily electronic check in system for visitors to campus. The School Access Management system has been implemented on all campuses and ready for use.

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 by Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. Through the use of the School Access Management System provided by Raptor Technologies, the District has established procedures for visitors provide photo identification which is scanned against the Megan's Law list in all 50 states.

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.: This recommendation is currently being considered and requires further analysis. The analysis should be completed by the end of December, 2018.

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 will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Students currently carry a school issued identification at all times. ID badges are not necessary.

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 by the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. All supervisory staff currently have two-way radios. Each radio has been programmed to access the Blue Channel frequency providing staff to first responders (fire, police, etc.) as needed.

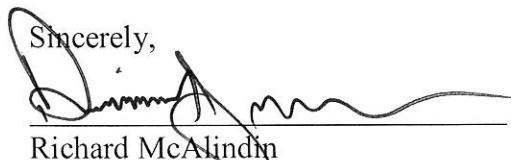
R.8.: School districts should consider requiring that all campus incidents of unauthorized access be recorded, tracked, and reported to the district office on a quarterly basis. All districts should share these reports with the Orange County Department of Education. (F.8.)

Response to R.8.: The recommendation has been implemented by the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. School personnel use an incident reporting form to report significant security related incidences.

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 by the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. District staff has conducted site walks with school administration to conduct a school security assessment. In addition, several schools have conducted security assessments with local law enforcement.

Sincerely,



Richard McAlindin
Executive Director, Instructional Support

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