



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

December 13, 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.

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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 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. The District is having a hard time coming up with a specific date related to exploring all potential funding sources. The current Board is interested in exploring a potential Bond attempt addressing districtwide security measures at either the March 2020 or November 2020 Primary or Presidential Elections.

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. The District is having a difficult time coming up with a specific date that fencing may be installed on all of our campuses throughout the District due to not having identified dollars to commit to the project. Our Facility Master Plan will be presented to the School Board and public at a Board Meeting in either February or March and the cost of a district-wide fencing project will be a part of that presentation, though funding to complete a fencing project has not been identified.

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 School Board voted to implement a visitor/volunteer screening software program at the December 10, 2018 School Board Meeting that will require all visitors and volunteers on campus to present a form of picture identification that will be screened against sex offender registries from all 50 states. This platform will be installed on our campuses in January 2019.

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 Human Resources Department purchased a photo I.D. badge-maker during the 2018-19 school year and has produced an employee badge for all District employees that they are directed to wear while they are on campuses throughout the school district. This process includes all of our substitute employees who are less familiar when they are working on our many campuses.

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 discussed with District-level administration and secondary administration and it does not address a felt need on our secondary campuses. However, we will be mindful of this consideration as we continue to work on safety issues throughout the district.

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)

Response to R.9.: School safety assessments are done on a yearly basis as site administrators update and refine their school safety plans required by the State of California. This process incorporates a collaboration between site administration, district staff, teachers, parents, classified staff and the local police department. Plans are updated yearly and submitted to the School Board for approval. Additionally, during the 2018-19 school year a Facility Master Plan was conducted by an outside agency which identified areas of needed facility improvements related to safety and security at each of our campuses.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Orange County Grand Jury
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