



# LAGUNA BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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550 Blumont Street  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

August 17, 2023

The Honorable Maria D. Hernandez  
Presiding Judge  
Orange County Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Re: Responses to the OC Grand Jury Report on School Shootings

Dear Judge Hernandez,

Please see below for the responses to each required Finding as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

| F # | Finding  | Agree/<br>Disagree  | Response And Explanation (if Required)  |
|-----|--|---|---|
| F1  | Law enforcement, first responders, and other stakeholders have demonstrated a strong interest in working cooperatively with Orange County public schools to mitigate the risk of an active shooter incident; establishment of MOUs between law enforcement and school districts would strengthen this cooperation. | Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding                           | We have had an MOU in place for School Resource Officers to be provided for our district since 2018. Our SRO's play an integral role on our district-wide safety committee and support the development and implementation of safety programs and protocols at all of our sites. |
| F2  | All Orange County public schools studied by the Grand Jury stated that they conducted or have scheduled drills within the current school year on emergency procedures addressing intruders on campus, but not all have done so specifically regarding armed assailants.  | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | Our district has drills annually related to intruders on campus, which includes the responses consistent with an armed assailant. However, we are not able to speak for other districts in regards to their implementation of any such drills.                                  |
| F3  | While all districts prioritize the safety of students and staff, the attention and resources devoted to active shooter preparedness and response vary from district to district.   | Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding                           | While not able to speak to the attention and resources dedicated by others to active shooter preparedness, we do recognize these two items would vary from district to district.  |

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| <b>F4</b> | Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.  | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | We are not able to speak for other districts in this area, but we work diligently to develop site specific safety plans that address all activities and programs that occur on our campuses. In most cases, however, our after school programs are provided by third party vendors, i.e. the Boys & Girls Club, to provide the extended day learning opportunities we offer our students.  |
| <b>F5</b> | While many Orange County public schools have installed fences, cameras, and other methods to address the issue of active shooters on a campus, there are still opportunities for improvement. | Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding                           | We are a district that has a core belief in continuous improvement and recognize that there is always room for improvement. Over the past several years we have worked closely with the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, our School Resource Officers, and district-wide safety committee to assess and implement safety measures that include additional fencing, security cameras accessible by local law enforcement, and even the installation of ballistic film on windows as recommended. |
| <b>F6</b> | Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.  | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | We are not familiar with what all the other districts use to manage campus visitors, but we use a combination of a tiered volunteer systems that requires varying levels of background checks and the Raptor check-in system for all visitors.   |
| <b>F7</b> | While there is an increased awareness of the benefits of mental health counseling, not all school districts have implemented these programs in all schools.                                   | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | Our district has invested heavily into the social emotional and mental health counselling services provided to our students even prior to the pandemic. An entire new department was created to support students social and emotional health in 2017 which is overseen by the Director of Social & Emotional Supports under the direction of the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction. The district has a ratio of one credentialed school-based mental health professional per 122 students,             |

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|            |   |   | substantially below the recommended ratios established by the American School Counselor Association (1:250), and National Association of School Psychologists (1:500).  |
| <b>F8</b>  | School Resource Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers. | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | We recognize the value that School Resource Officers (SROs) can bring and value our current relationship with our local law enforcement that supports providing them for our district. However, we cannot speak to the allocations or decisions of other local municipalities when deciding how to implement or expand an SRO program as it would likely be unique to the circumstances to that locality. |
| <b>F9</b>  | Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.  | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | All classrooms have the ability to obstruct the interior view from the outside, whether through the use of shades or window tint, which is consistent with the recommendations that we received and implemented from the Orange County Intelligence and Assessment Center in 2018.  |
| <b>F10</b> | The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.   | Agree. The Respondent agrees with the finding                           | We agree that the installation of a security camera system, like the one we have installed across all of our district owned sites, requires repairs, maintenance, and additions over time.  |
| <b>F11</b> | Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.   | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | We are not able to speak to the application of perimeter fencing or otherwise related to securely enclosing a campus for other districts. However, all of our campuses are equipped with fencing and signage to direct all visitors to a single point of entry at the front office.   |
| <b>F12</b> | A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.   | Disagree. The Respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding | The doors for the front offices are unlocked during the school day to allow entry to a dedicated visitor check-in location prior to gaining access to the campus. The doors at each front office are equipped with electronic locking mechanisms that are connected to a panic button at the front reception desk to allow for immediate locking of the entry if necessary.                               |

Please see below for the responses to each required Recommendation as requested in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

| R # | Recommendation  | Implementation                                 | Response And Explanation (if Required)   |
|-----|---|--|--|
| R1  | <p>Each Orange County school district should arrange for local law enforcement to do an annual safety inspection of each school. The written safety checklist should include an audit of the integrity of site boundaries and a review of safety plans and policies. This annual safety audit should commence with the 2023-24 school year by October 1, 2023, and annually thereafter.</p> | <p>Recommendation has been implemented</p>     | <p>Our local law enforcement and fire authority are active members on the district-wide safety committee that meets 4 times per year. One of the charges of the committee is to update the comprehensive safety plan that is taken to the Board for review and approval prior to March 1 each year. School Resource Officers review the annual update to our comprehensive safety plans to make sure it addresses all requirements and reflects the current best practices.</p> <p>In addition, we have invited the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center to conduct a threat assessment all of our district-owned sites and we plan on continuing to invite their review so that we can identify any improvements that need to be implemented.</p> |
| R2  | <p>All Orange County school districts should establish a threat identification and assessment system for all school sites to monitor social media, screen for messages of concern, and manage information received in coordination with local law enforcement using MOUs, if necessary, by July 1, 2024.</p>  | <p>Recommendation will not be implemented.</p> | <p>This recommendation is not warranted or reasonable. The district does not have the manpower or resources to monitor or screen all social media for messages of concern. The district has employed an anonymous reporting system, WeTip2.0, that includes coordination with local law enforcement to follow up on any reported messages of concern.</p>  |
| R3  | <p>Each Orange County school district, in conjunction with law enforcement, should develop and implement tabletop exercises to be conducted in district schools by December 31, 2023, and annually thereafter.</p>  | <p>Recommendation has been implemented</p>     | <p>Our district has been utilizing the tabletop exercise model since 2021 and plan on continuing the use of it for training for the foreseeable future. For the 2023-24 school year we intend on holding tabletop exercises in conjunction with our districtwide safety committee meetings to allow our local law first responders and health care agencies to walk through a variety of emergency situations and explain</p>  |

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|           |   |   | <p>how their respective teams would respond. The goal of this would be to promote awareness amongst our schools as representatives from each: administration, classified, and certificated staff participate on the committee. Having a clear picture of how local agencies outside of our own school staff would respond will help us further refine our practices to be in alignment with promoting safety and responses that we may expect in a variety of emergency situations.</p> |
| <b>R4</b> | <p>Each Orange County school district should work with local law enforcement to plan and conduct a district-wide active shooter drill by July 1, 2024, and at least every other year thereafter.</p>                                      | <p>Recommendation will not be implemented</p>   | <p>We work closely with our School Resource Officers to design and implement active shooter response protocols and drills as they are appropriate for each individual school site. The response to an active shooter is based on the unique circumstances and physical features at each campus and having a district-wide drill does not offer any benefit than would be otherwise realized if conducting a drill at each school was done separately during the year.</p>               |
| <b>R5</b> | <p>All Orange County school districts should develop a casualty care training program for each school in their district, to be in place by the end of the first semester of the 2023-24 school year and provided annually thereafter.</p> | <p>Recommendation requires further analysis</p> | <p>Our district is in the process of developing multiple optional training opportunities for all of our staff in the 2023-24 school year. Training programs include stop-the-bleed, first aid, CPR, AED operation, and active violence emergency response with bleed control. These trainings will be in addition to all mandated trainings our staff currently completes and our intent would be to continue to offer opportunities for this type of training on an annual basis.</p>  |
| <b>R6</b> | <p>Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs need to be addressed more thoroughly by school districts, by July 1, 2024.</p>  | <p>Recommendation requires further analysis</p> | <p>Site specific safety plans are developed annually to address school safety based on the programs and activities that occur on each site. In most cases in our district, after school care is provided through a third party, like Boys &amp; Girls Club, to provide extended day services for our students. While we agree that there is always room for</p>   |

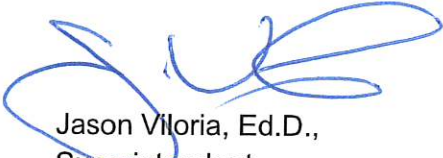
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|           |   |  | improvement, we already have a mechanism in place to provide necessary updates and improvements to our safety plans using our district-wide safety committee. The committee meets quarterly on an annual basis and could review the plan over the course of the next school year to make sure it adequately addresses after-school program needs. Laguna Beach USD does not currently offer before-school programs.  |
| <b>R7</b> | Each Orange County school district should obtain and incorporate perimeter camera systems in all district schools by July 1, 2024, or earlier if financially able to do so, and investigate the potential use of cameras that incorporate Artificial Intelligence to enhance threat detection and prevention. | Recommendation has been implemented      | Security cameras have been installed at all district-owned sites since 2016-17. An MOU was established to allow for access to the cameras by our local law enforcement should an event cause the need to do so. Additional cameras have been added to all sites over time and as the cameras reach their end of useful life our intent would be to replace with cameras that possess the ability to use AI to enhance safety.  |
| <b>R8</b> | All Orange County school districts should review entry procedures on all campuses with an eye toward the use of perimeter fencing, the use of single point entry, and the use of a buzzer and camera system for entry into the main/administrative offices.   | Recommendation requires further analysis | Perimeter fencing is in place at each school site to direct all visitors to a single entry point, the front office, in addition to signage. Security cameras are installed at each site and regularly reviewed and maintained for adequate coverage. The front office of each school is equipped with a panic button located at the front desk that, when pushed, will automatically lock the front office doors. The use of a buzzer style entry system may be reviewed with the district-wide safety committee over the 2023-24 school year. The committee meets quarterly on an annual basis and could review the recommendation over the course of the next school year to make sure it adequately addresses after-school program needs. |
| <b>R9</b> | Each Orange County school district should identify and implement a parent and visitor management system for each school site within the school district. This is to include identified access points, badges, or a similar identification procedure to be implemented by                                      | Recommendation has been implemented      | Our district, in compliance with California Education Code 35021 and Board Policy 1240, requires school volunteers to be screened and authorized to volunteer. There are two tiers of volunteer, Tier 1  |

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|            | July 1, 2024.   |  | being a short term or small event volunteer and Tier 2 for those who are chaperoning or are volunteering on a regular basis, typically more than 5 hours per week. Information about our volunteer system can be found at:<br><a href="https://www.lbusd.org/resources/volunteers">https://www.lbusd.org/resources/volunteers</a>  |
| <b>R10</b> | Each Orange County school district should implement training for all staff to identify threat-related behaviors and provide a procedure for reporting the behavior by the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. | Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future (see right for timeline) | Our district has an established district-wide threat assessment team with representative team members at all four school sites and in partnership with our School Resource Officer and local police department. This team has identified and drafted district-wide threat assessment procedures in alignment with the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (2018). In the 2023-24 school year, all administrators and school-based mental health professionals will be trained on implementing this model. In the spring and summer 2024 prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year, all staff will have training in identifying threat behaviors and how to report those behaviors. |
| <b>R11</b> | All Orange County school districts should develop a plan to implement or enhance mental health counseling for all schools by December 31, 2024.   | Recommendation has been implemented  | Our district continuously evaluates school-based mental health services and funds qualified staff to provide prevention and intervention mental health services to students TK-12.   |
| <b>R12</b> | Each Orange County school district should assess the need for SROs or additional SROs, reaching out to appropriate community partners to facilitate funding by July 1, 2024.                                    | Recommendation has been implemented  | The adequacy of our School Resource Officer Program is reviewed as part of our existing Joint-Use Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Laguna Beach. The agreement is currently being updated to reflect a two-year extension. Specific to the SRO program review, the effectiveness is reviewed annually as required by the agreement. In part, the agreement states that "The SRO's effectiveness in the program will be evaluated at the end of each school term." Should a need be identified to add or modify the existing SRO services, we would discuss the changes with the City and include them as part of an  |

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|            |  |                                     | annual update or renewal to the existing agreement. |
| <b>R13</b> | All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023. | Recommendation has been implemented | OCIAC   |

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jason Vitoria, Ed.D.,  
Superintendent  
Laguna Beach Unified School District  
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(949)497-7700 ext. 5202





## Agenda Item Details

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Meeting  | Aug 17, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING - BUSINESS MEETING  |
| Category | 10. CONSENT CALENDAR - ACTION (CONSENT)  |
| Subject  | X. Approval of Staff Responses to the OC Grand Jury Report Titled School Shootings: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools? |
| Type     | Consent Calendar   |

### Background

The Orange County Grand Jury (OCGJ) recently published a report on June 14, 2023, detailing the efforts undertaken by school districts and the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE) to prepare for active violence events in order to protect the students and staff within the Orange County school system. The report is attached as is the LBUSD response to the Grand Jury.

Per California Penal Code Section 933 933 paragraph (c) states in part "No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body..." Each Local Educational Agency (LEA) in Orange County is required to address the findings and recommendations outlined in the OCGJ report by September 12, 2023. It is requested that each District's Governing Board review and approve the written response to the OCGJ report.

 [OC Grand Jury School Shootings.How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools.pdf \(3,569 KB\)](#)

 [LBUSD OC Grand Jury Response on School Shootings.pdf \(178 KB\)](#)

*Parliamentary Procedure provides for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. All matters listed under the Consent Calendar will be enacted by the Board in one motion. The Superintendent and the Staff recommend approval, and/or ratification of all Consent Calendar items. Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of a Board member and acted on separately.*



### Agenda Item Details

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Meeting            | Aug 17, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING - BUSINESS MEETING |
| Category           | 10. CONSENT CALENDAR - ACTION (CONSENT)           |
| Subject            | B. Approval of Consent Calendar Items C-X         |
| Type               | Action  |
| Recommended Action | Motion to approve Consent Calendar Items C-X.     |

### Background

Approval includes all Consent Calendar items C-X unless an item is pulled to be voted on separately.

### Motion & Voting

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Items C-R and T-X.

Motion by Kelly Osborne, second by Joan Malczewski.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Joan Malczewski, Kelly Osborne, Dee Perry, Jan Vickers  
Not Present at Vote: Jim Kelly

Motion to approve Consent Calendar Item S.

Motion by Kelly Osborne, second by Joan Malczewski.  
Final Resolution: Motion Carried  
Yes: Joan Malczewski, Kelly Osborne, Dee Perry, Jan Vickers  
Not Present at Vote: Jim Kelly