

Huntington Beach Union High School District
5832 Bolsa Avenue
Huntington Beach, Ca 92649

September 8 , 2023

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

Dear Judge Hernandez,

The Huntington Beach Union High School District commends the Grand Jury for its time and attention devoted to studying this very important issue and publishing the Grand Jury Report dated June 14, 2023, entitled: *School Shootings: How Prepared Are Orange County Public Schools*. Please see below for the responses to each Finding (1-12) as required in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

Finding		Response	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.	The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	HBUHSD does agree that local law enforcement, first responders, and other stakeholders play a valuable role in maintaining safe schools.. Currently, we have arranged for many active shooter trainings, stop the bleed training, etc. and all of this is accomplished without having a MOU with these groups. The HBUHSD disagrees that we need to create a MOU to strengthen this cooperation.

<p>F2</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding</p>	<p>HBUHSD cannot respond to what other districts or schools are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. HBUHSD partially disagrees with the statement because we do conduct safety drills and intruder drills that include addressing what to do if armed assailants are on campus.</p>
<p>F3</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding</p>	<p>HBUHSD cannot respond to what other districts or schools are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. HBUHSD partially disagrees with this statement because we prioritize active shooter preparedness in our safety training.</p>
<p>F4</p>	<p>Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.</p>	<p>The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding</p>	<p>HBUHSD cannot respond to what other districts are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. The HBUHSD partially disagrees with the statement as the safety plans for our campuses do include preparedness for before and after school activities/programs. We do agree with the statement as there is always room for future dialogue in this area.</p>
<p>F5</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Agree. The respondent agrees with the finding.</p>	

F6	Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.	The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	HBUHSD cannot respond to what other schools are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. HBUHSD partially disagrees with this statement as we do have systems in place to monitor visitors on our campuses and at the district office.
F7	While there is an increased awareness of the benefits of mental health counseling, not all school districts have implemented these programs in all schools.	The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	HBUHSD cannot respond to what other districts are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. HBUHSD partially disagrees with this statement as it pertains to our district as we have addressed the benefits of mental health counseling. Our district has hired an additional wellness counselor for all of our sites increasing the total number of mental health personnel at each site. We also utilize CareSolace to help our families connect with outside care. HBUHSD used county grant funding to hire a psychologist to work with our staff who need mental health support as well.
F8	School Resource Officers (SROs) are a valuable asset for school safety, yet many cities/districts do not allocate sufficient funds to hire needed officers.	The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	HBUHSD cannot respond to what other districts and cities are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. HBUHSD partially disagrees with this statement as we fund a Public Safety Officer that works with our campuses. HBUHSD, in partnership with the Huntington Beach Police Department, the Fountain Valley Police Department, and the Westminster Police Department, have SRO's that are assigned to our schools and they are funded by those cities.

F9	Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	
F10	The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.	Respondent agrees with the finding.	
F11	Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.	The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding	HBUHSD cannot respond to what other districts are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. HBUHSD partially disagrees with this statement as our school sites have fencing where feasible. HBUHSD agrees with the statement as the fencing does not completely enclose campuses across the district.
F12	A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.		HBUHSD cannot respond to what other districts are doing throughout the county so we cannot fully agree or disagree with this statement. HBUHSD partially disagrees with the statement as the district installed lockblocks where feasible so doors can be locked and closed quickly during an emergency.

Please see below for the responses to each Recommendation (1-13) as required in the Orange County Grand Jury report and attached cover letter dated June 14, 2023.

Recommendation		Action	Explanation
R1	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.	Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.	The HBUHSD does collaborate often with our local enforcement agencies, however this recommendation is not feasible due to the number of schools each police department works with and the amount of staff required to complete this annually. We do work closely with local police departments and participate in city wide training and task forces. Our district's Public Safety Officer also works with our law enforcement agencies.
R2	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.	Recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.	HBUHSD has a system to report threats district wide, but this recommendation is not feasible as it would require additional staffing and funding to be able to accomplish this. We do work closely with local law enforcement agencies who assist us when we receive information about possible threats or concerns and they let our district and school sites know when they see any messages or social media posts that are concerning.

R3	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.	Recommendation has been implemented.	
R4	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.	Recommendation requires further analysis	HBUHSD will look into the possibility of conducting a district-wide active shooter drill. We do have three different cities within our district with three local law enforcement agencies and fire departments and city governments to collaborate with and we do partner with these agencies during our district-wide earthquake drills.
R5	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.	Recommendation has been implemented.	
R6	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.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	HBUHSD will ensure before and after school programs, such as athletic events, are more thoroughly addressed in our safety plans by July 1, 2024.
R7	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 requires further analysis	All schools have a safety camera system that monitors the perimeter. HBUHSD will explore the potential use of Artificial Intelligence to enhance threat detections and prevention and will explore the possibility of upgrading our security systems.

R8	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 has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	HBUHSD does review entry procedures on all campuses annually and will discuss having an eye toward the use of perimeter fencing, single point entry, and the use of a buzzer and camera system for the entry into the main/administrative offices by December 31, 2023.
R9	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 July 1, 2024.	Recommendation has been implemented.	
R10	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 been implemented.	
R11	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.	
R12	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.	
R13	All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023.	Recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be with a time frame for implementation.	HBUHSD will investigate and discuss bullet resistant or tinted film covering for windows by December 31, 2023.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Spelber', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Courtney Spelber
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