



SUPERINTENDENT

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September 14, 2023

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

Re: Anaheim Elementary School District's Response to the 2022-23 Orange County Grand Jury Report on *School Shootings: How Prepared are Orange County Public Schools?*

To The Orange County Grand Jury:

The Anaheim Elementary School District (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 titled: *School Shootings: How Prepared are the Orange County Public Schools?*

The District has thoroughly reviewed and considered the Findings and Recommendations in the Report. In accordance with California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury has requested that the District respond to Findings and Recommendations made in the Report. The District responds to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations with the following:

Finding 1

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 District agrees with the finding.

Finding 2

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.

The District agrees with this finding.

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Finding 3

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.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 4

Safety and security plans for on-campus before and after-school programs are not adequately addressed by school districts.

District partially disagrees with the finding. The District does not have firsthand information regarding whether other school districts have adequate safety plans for their before and after school programs. Therefore, the District cannot wholly agree or disagree with this finding. As it relates to the District, our before and after school programs have safety protocols and scheduled emergency drills.

Finding 5

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.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 6

Not all schools utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors.

The District partially disagrees with the finding. The District does not have firsthand information regarding whether other school districts utilize a system for monitoring campus visitors. As it relates to the District, we use RAPTOR as our system for monitoring campus visitors.

Finding 7

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 District partially disagrees with the finding. The District does not have firsthand information regarding whether other school districts have implemented mental health counseling programs. As it relates to the District, we have a Community of Support Team consisting of a psychologist, 2 counselors, a nurse, and a behavior health aide at every school to provide mental health support.

Finding 8

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 District agrees with this finding.

Finding 9

Not all classrooms have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside.

The District partially disagrees with the finding. The District does not have firsthand information regarding whether other school districts have window shades, tinted glass, or film to obstruct the interior view from the outside. As it relates to the District, all exterior windows in the District have shades or tinted windows.

Finding 10

The camera surveillance systems utilized on many campuses require repairs, replacement, or additions.

The District partially disagrees with the finding. The District does not have firsthand information regarding the condition of other school districts' camera systems. As it relates to the District, all our camera surveillance systems are functional.

Finding 11

Many schools do not have perimeter fencing completely enclosing their campus.

The District partially disagrees with the finding. The District does not have firsthand information regarding whether other school districts have perimeter fencing enclosing their campuses. As it relates to the District, every school in AESD has perimeter fencing enclosing their campus.

Finding 12

A number of school districts have school site administrative offices that remain unlocked on a daily basis.

The District agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 1

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.

The recommendation requires further analysis. AESD will consult with our local police department to discuss putting this procedure in place.

Recommendation 2

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.

The recommendation has been implemented. AESD uses Gaggle as a monitoring tool and every school has a threat assessment team on campus who follow District threat assessment protocols which includes collaboration with law enforcement and child protective services. The District works with local law enforcement when social media threats are reported to the school staff.

Recommendation 3

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.

The recommendation requires further analysis. AESD will consult with our local police department to discuss putting this procedure in place.

Recommendation 4

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.

The recommendation requires further analysis. AESD will consult with our local police department to discuss putting this procedure in place.

Recommendation 5

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.

The recommendation requires further analysis. AESD will consult with our local police department to discuss putting this procedure in place.

Recommendation 6

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.

The recommendation has been implemented. Every school in AESD has a safety and security plan for the before and after school programs.

Recommendation 7

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.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Every school in AESD will have a camera system by July 1, 2024.

Recommendation 8

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.

The recommendation has been implemented. Every school in AESD has perimeter fencing and a single point of entry. The buzzer and camera systems at all schools will be installed by December 2023.

Recommendation 9

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.

The recommendation has been implemented. AESD uses RAPTOR, a visitor and volunteer information and screening program.

Recommendation 10

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.

The recommendation has been implemented. Every school in AESD has a threat assessment team that provides information on how to report threat-related behaviors to the staff.

Recommendation 11

All Orange County school districts should develop a plan to implement or enhance mental health counseling for all schools by December 31, 2024.

The recommendation has been implemented. Every school in AESD has a team with a psychologist, 2 counselors, a nurse and a behavior health aide.

Recommendation 12

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.

The recommendation requires further analysis. AESD will consult with our local police department to discuss the need for SRO's.

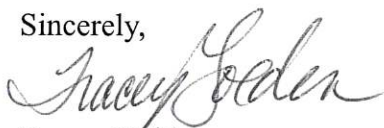
Recommendation 13

All Orange County school districts should investigate and consider bullet resistant or tinted film covering for school windows by December 31, 2023.

The recommendation has been implemented. All exterior windows at all schools are tinted or have shades to obstruct an interior view from the outside.

Please accept the information provided herein as the District's responses to the Orange County Grand Jury's Factual Findings and Recommendation in the Report. Once again, we appreciate the time and attention that the Grand Jury devoted to this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Tracey Golden
Senior Director of School Safety and Operations
Anaheim Elementary School District