

June 17, 1999

Mr. Marvin J. Reeber
Foreman, 1998-1999 Ventura County Grand Jury
c/o The Honorable Charles Campbell
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Ventura County Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

June 17, 1999
[Handwritten signature]

**SUBJECT: *Response to Grand Jury Report on School Safety
in Ventura County Public Schools***

Dear Mr. Reeber:

We are in receipt of the Ventura County Grand Jury's report entitled, "*School Safety in Ventura County Public Schools*". Having reviewed this document, please be advised that we are in concurrence with the Grand Jury's recommendations with the exception of recommendation R-3, which relates to the services of a County "Safety Coordinator".

Our concern regarding this recommendation is twofold. Firstly, the telephone number provided for access to the County Safety Coordinator, (800) 383-1912, is incorrect. This (800) number belongs to a Mr. and Mrs. Claude and Margie Scott, and charges are incorrectly accruing to them. The area code needs to be corrected to indicate (805), not (800). Secondly, the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office (VCSSO) does not currently provide school site safety inspection services to the individual school districts in Ventura County. Our agency does, however, employ a *Risk Management Specialist* whose responsibility is limited to our own internal operations. Each school district within Ventura County is responsible for the development and evaluation of its particular safety plan, including the effectiveness of day-time and night-time security systems. As such, it would be inappropriate to list this telephone number as a reference for school district access.

However, each school district within Ventura County, including VCSSO, is a member of the Ventura County Schools Self-Funding Authority (VCSSFA), a liability and property joint-powers authority. As one of its many services to Ventura County school districts, VCSSFA employs two full-time *Loss Control Specialists* to assist school districts in this critical area.

As an educational service agency serving the school districts and students in Ventura County, we, too, believe that the students in our charge are to be provided the highest level of school security possible. Hopefully, these comments will serve to clarify our roles and responsibilities as they pertain to School Safety.

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We would also respectfully request that a corrected summary of recommendations reflecting the needed changes be sent to all of those included on the original mailing list.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me directly at (805) 383-1905.

Sincerely,



Stan Mantooth
Assistant Superintendent
Business and Personnel Services

SM:sw

cc: Charles Weis, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools, VCSSO
Paul Wilhelmsen, Executive Director, VCSSFA
Norma Magana, Risk Management Specialist, VCSSO

July 26, 1999

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OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE

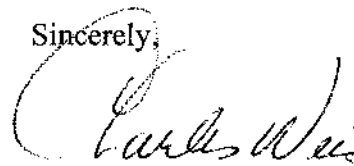
Presiding Judge Charles W. Campbell
Hall of Justice
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Judge Campbell:

In response to the 1998-99 Grand Jury Final Report, I have sent a letter of instruction to the 20 Ventura County school districts and have directed them to send their responses to the recommendations in the report to you with copies to the County Clerk, and the impaneled Grand Jury as well as to my office. (See attachment.)

Since the Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office was not required to respond to any Grand Jury recommendations, my memorandum to the schools districts was sent to ensure the school district superintendents and governing boards understand their responsibility to comply with the requirements set forth in the Penal Code.

Sincerely,



Charles Weis, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

CW/cp
Attachment

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: Dr. Charles Weis *CW*
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools

DATE: July 26, 1999

SUBJECT: School District Responses to the Grand Jury Report

This is a reminder that all school districts are required respond to the findings in the 1998-99 Final Report of the Ventura County Grand Jury even if your district was not visited. The "Summary Recommendations to all County School Districts" is on pages 161-162 (see attached) of the report showing the district names under "Responses Requested." Fillmore Unified, Pleasant Valley, and Oxnard Union High School Districts were visited and have more specific recommendations to respond to.

Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05 are attached for your information. These code sections contain the requirements and the content/format for your response. Since your district is named in the report, you must respond within 90 days or by **September 28, 1999**.

When your response is completed, please prepare an original and three copies for distribution as follows:

1. Original to the Presiding Judge – Judge Charles W. Campbell, Hall of Justice, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009
2. Copy to the Clerk of the public agency – Dr. Charles Weis, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office, 5189 Verdugo Way, Camarillo, CA 93012
3. Copy to the County Clerk – Richard Dean, County Government Center, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009
4. Copy to the impaneled Grand Jury – Ventura County Jury Services, Hall of Justice, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to call my office at 383-1901.

CW/cp
Attachments