

HUENEME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

205 N. Ventura Road

(805) 488-3588

Port Hueneme, CA 93041-3065

DR. JERRY DANNENBERG
Superintendent

DEBORAH DeSMETH
Assistant Superintendent

DR. CHRISTINE McCLOSKEY
Assistant Superintendent

June 25, 2013

RECEIVED

Hon. Brian J. Black
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

JUN 28 2013

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

RE: Response to the Grand Jury from the Hueneme Elementary School District

Dear Judge Black:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Hueneme Elementary School District, I am responding to the May 10, 2013 report of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury on "School Security."

Findings:

FI-01. The Grand Jury found that all school districts were trained in school security and threat assessment by the Ventura County Office of Education and conducted by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department. (FA-04-06)

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, all of the District's principals, the Superintendent and two other district office administrators attended the Threat Assessment Workshop as reported by the Grand Jury. On Wednesday, February 28, 2013, one additional District Office administrator attended a second session of this workshop.

FI-02. The Grand Jury found that there were no ID badges on some staff campus personnel and visitors. This does not comply with the Threat Assessment Training. (FA-01-14)

The Hueneme Elementary School District issues employee ID badges to all staff including teachers, substitute teachers, administrators, maintenance and grounds personnel, and all other classified staff. All schools issue ID badges for visitors on our campuses.

FI-03. The Grand Jury found that gates were open and unmonitored. This does not comply with the Threat Assessment Training. (FA-01-14)

District principals have been working with school staff, and maintenance staff, to make sure all gates are locked during school hours. We are developing plans for making our single access point at each school more secure.

FI-04. The Grand Jury found no visible campus security. This does not comply with the Threat Assessment Training. (FA-01-14)

At the present time, our District does not have campus security. We will address this issue with our Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David A. Cenzano, President ■ Vianey Lopez, Clerk ■ Darlene A. Bruno, Member ■ Scott E. Swenson, Member ■ Rafael (Ralph) Ramos, Member

The Honorable Brian J. Black,
Presiding Judge of the Ventura County Superior Court

**RE: Response to the Grand Jury from the Hueneme Elementary School District regarding
School Security**

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FI-05. The Grand Jury found that some schools have no perimeter fencing. This does not comply with the Threat Assessment Training. (FA-01-14)

All schools in our District have perimeter fencing with locking gates. We are working toward having better control of a single access point on each campus during school hours.

Recommendations:

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that each school district conduct a realistic threat assessment review as addressed in the training workshop. The assessment should determine the facility's vulnerability. All districts should send a representative to meet and discuss threat assessment for each school in the respective district. (FI-01-05)

Every principal in the District attended the threat assessment training. They have been reviewing what they learned with their staff and are changing procedures at their school sites (such as having a single access point).

R-02. The Grand Jury recommends that each school district in cooperation with law enforcement should consider instituting a training program based on threat assessment for all classified and non-classified personnel. Policies and practices should be implemented to identify warning signs, and create effective communication among all levels of school personnel. (FI-01-05)

Our administrators work closely with law enforcement. We regularly invite them to school sites and to the district office to conduct trainings and drills and suggest improvements.

R-03. The Grand Jury recommends that each school building be easily identified from the air and street. Each school district should consider incorporating the use of volunteers who will act as school safety agents and be so identified with unique vests properly identifying persons as a school safety agent. Such vests should be uniform throughout the county. (FI-01-05)

I will share this suggestion with the school principals and our maintenance staff.

Sincerely,



Jerry Dannenberg, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Copy: Jay Whitney, Foreperson, 2012-2013 Ventura County Grand Jury ✓