

Mesa Union School District



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"We teach students to create, connect, and collaborate—for life!"

DATE: May 28, 2013
TO: Honorable Brian J. Back, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
FROM: Michael Babb, Ed.D.
RE: Required response to Report of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury "School Security"

Thank you for sending the document, *Report of the 2012-2013 Grand Jury "School Security."* The following is Mesa Union's response to the report's findings:

- The Mesa Union principal and I attended the Ventura County Sheriff's threat assessment workshop given this year
- Mesa Staff have created identification and sign-in procedures for staff and visitors
- The campus gate is open during the school day so that cars may enter the school parking lot, and entry is supervised
- The campus features paid staff which provides security at the cafeteria, play yard, middle school quad, entrance and in front of the school
- Fencing encloses much of the perimeter of the Mesa Union campus.

The following is our response to recommendations included in the report:

- Earlier this year our administration contracted with Dr. Ronald Stevens from the National School Safety Center to evaluate Mesa Union campus security. Dr. Stevens, a nationally-recognized expert on school safety and threat assessment, reviewed school safety plans and policy, interviewed staff and conducted a site visit. Based on his observations, Dr. Stevens provided staff a report with recommendations we will use to reduce the facility's vulnerability.
- Our school buildings are marked at street level in such a way that could be detected from the air.
- Mesa Union administration will consider instituting training events pursuant to the threat assessment described above.
- In the interest of making more security more visible, Mesa Union administrators will be providing uniforms to supervisory staff.
- Administrators also are considering recruiting volunteers who can serve as "safety agents."

We appreciate the court's concern for student and staff safety. The district administration will work in cooperation with local law enforcement to continuously improve in the central area of school safety.

Sincerely,


Michael Babb, Ed.D.

RECEIVED

JUN 3 2013

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY