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RECEIVED

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

August 21, 2013

Honorable Brian J. Back
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009

Honorable Brian J. Back:

On May 10, 2013, the Grand Jury issued its report entitled: School Security. The Grand Jury requested a response from the Mupu Elementary School District to findings FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04, FI-05 and recommendations R-01, R-02, and R-03 of that report. The report has been reviewed by the Mupu Elementary Board of Trustees and the following responses are provided as requested:

Findings FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04, FI-05: The Mupu School District has no knowledge of the visited districts, and will only speak for itself:

Finding 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.

Mupu School District agrees. The District sent a representative to the training.

Finding 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.

Mupu School District agrees. Mupu has a very small staff (13) and a small enrollment (145), and it has not required ID badges because everyone knows who belongs on the site. However, we recognize that this is not good practice and will require the badges.

Finding FI-03: The Grand Jury found that gates were open and unmonitored. This does not comply with the Threat Assessment Training.

Mupu School District disagrees. Gates are locked during the school day. A camera monitors the front gate.

Finding FI-04: The Grand Jury found no visible campus security.

Mupu School District agrees. However, the district is too small to afford security personnel. The Ventura County Sheriff's Department has assigned us a resource officer who visits frequently, but the district does

employ its own security. The district has installed a “panic button” alarm system that calls for armed response if staff members detect a threat to human life and calling 911 is not an option.

Finding FI-05: The Grand Jury found that some schools have no perimeter fencing. This does not comply with the Threat Assessment Training.

Mupu School District disagrees. The school site has tall perimeter fencing around the entire site.

Recommendation 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)

Mupu School District agrees with this recommendation, and has begun the process of conducting a threat assessment with assistance from the resource officer assigned to Mupu School by the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department and with Bay Alarm. As a result of these meetings, Mupu has done the following:

- Installed a camera to monitor people waiting to enter/exit the front gate
- Locks all gates during school hours
- Provides “Panic Buttons” for all staff members to call for law enforcement armed response in the event of threat to human life (to be used if unable to call 911)
- Developed procedures and possible escape routes in the event of threat to human life

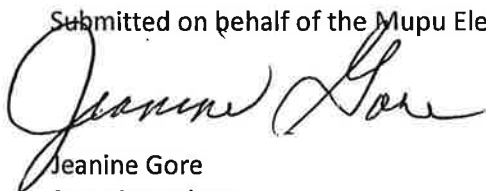
Recommendation R-02: The Grand Jury recommends that each school district in cooperation with law enforcement should consider instituting a training program based on threat assessment for all classified and non-classified personnel. Policies and practices should be implemented to identify warning signs,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

Mupu School District agrees with this recommendation, and is implementing training at its all-staff meeting at the start of the school year.

Recommendation 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)

Mupu School District agrees with this recommendation, but realizes that there would have to be consistent labeling of school buildings. The alarm company labels the buildings one way, and staff refer to the buildings by classroom numbers or teachers’ names. We are working with the Alarm company (in the event that a panic button is pushed) to make sure they relay correct information to law enforcement.

Submitted on behalf of the Mupu Elementary School District Board of Trustees,



Jeanine Gore
Superintendent

✓ Cc: Foreman, Ventura County Grand Jury