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June 14, 2013

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

RE: Grand Jury Report Dated May 10, 2013, Concerning School Security

This letter provides the requested response to the 2012-2013 Ventura County Grand Jury, Final Report on School Security dated May 10, 2013. I have included the District's response to each of the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report as requested.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this response, please contact me at 805-986-6702 or chelmstedter@oceanviewsd.org.

Sincerely,

Craig W. Helmstedter, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

cc: Jay Whitney, Foreperson, Ventura County Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

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VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: *Final Report on School Security*
Report Date: *May 10, 2013*
Response by: *Craig W. Helmstedter, Ed.D.* Title: *Superintendent*

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered:
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:
- I (we) neither agree nor disagree with the findings numbered: **FI-01, FI-02, FI-03, FI-04, and FI-05**

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered **R-01, R-02, R-03** will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are already implemented.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: *June 11, 2013* Signed:



Craig W. Helmstedter, Ed.D., Superintendent

Number of pages attached: 2

Response to Grand Jury Report Statements to Findings and Recommendations School Security

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).

OVSD has insufficient knowledge to be able to agree or disagree on a finding related to "all school districts". Ocean View sent a staff member to the school security and threat assessment training.

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).

OVSD has insufficient knowledge to be able to agree or disagree on a finding related to "all school districts". Ocean View requires ID badges on all staff and visitors, whether or not it complies with Threat Assessment Training.

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

OVSD has insufficient knowledge to be able to agree or disagree on a finding related to "all school districts". Ocean View closes and locks all gates at the beginning of the school day and keeps them closed and locked until dismissal at the end of the school day.

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

OVSD has insufficient knowledge to be able to agree or disagree on a finding related to "all school districts". Ocean View has visibly secure campuses including sufficient adult supervision and monitoring, sufficient lighting as needed, locked gates throughout the school day, perimeter fencing, an ID System, and hand-held communication devices for adult supervisors.

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).

OVSD has insufficient knowledge to be able to agree or disagree on a finding related to "all school districts". Ocean View has perimeter fencing around all schools.

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-OI-05).

OVSD already reviews and revises Comprehensive School Safety Plans each year based on assessment of safety needs as required by law. Ocean View already sends a representative to meet and discuss all safety needs to monthly meetings at the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE).

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-OI-05).

OVSD already provides training in safety protocols each year for school site staff members. Ocean View continually revises policies and practices to ensure greater student and staff safety in cooperation with local law enforcement.

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-05).

OVSD will provide additional safety measures as determined necessary by the Governing Board and District Administration. Ocean View believes that the use of "volunteers acting as school safety agents" creates too many potential safety liabilities and will not implement this recommendation.