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SAN DIEGO
COUNTY GRAND JURY

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Superintendent
David Jones

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Due Date: Aug. 02, 2019

The Honorable Peter C. Deddeh
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
P.O. Box 122724
San Diego, California 92112

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AUG 06 2019

Re: Response to the Grand Jury Report: "School Safety in San Diego County"

Honorable Judge Deddeh:

In accordance with the requirements, the Penal Code of California, Section 933(c), the Bonsall Unified School District has reviewed the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations and prepared the enclosed responses.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David Jones
Superintendent of Schools
Bonsall Unified School District

Enclosure

orig fwd to L. Nicks

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Finding 01: Overall, the San Diego County Schools studied are prepared to handle many kinds of emergencies, including active shooter situations, due largely to mandates from the State.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 01. The experience with the recent 2017 Lilac fire, and the on-going incidents of active shooter events has prompted a focus on ensuring safety and security readiness as our top priority.

Finding 02: Overall, law enforcement, first responders, parents and other stakeholders have shown interest to work cooperatively with San Diego County school studied in the prevention of possible active shooter incident.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 02. Due to our ongoing collaboration with the San Diego Sherriff’s Department, North County Fire Department and the administration, the Bonsall Unified School District is well prepared to support and protect all students and staff.

Finding 03: At the site level, there appears to be some lack of interactive collaboration with community stakeholders on the actual development of the plans.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 03. Our safety planning process emphasizes the role of site safety committees, which are appointed by our School Site Councils to review, plan, and implement safety plans at the site level. This process is authentic, interactive and collaborative, but we are committed to expand stakeholder engagement in the process.

Finding 04: The Grand Jury found that some of the schools reviewed had conducted a vulnerability study of their premises.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 04.

Finding 05: Valuable learning from the recent Florida and Texas shootings is not fully reflected yet in the existing CSSPs.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 05.

Finding 06: Overall, school districts in San Diego County indicated a more focused approach to active shooter response through their efforts to improve communication, add site safety precautions and adopt guidelines for Options-Based Responses in this year’s or next year’s Comprehensive School Safety Plans/Emergency Operations Plans.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 06.

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Finding 07: All San Diego County Schools in the Grand Jury study claimed to have conducted or have scheduled drills within the current school year on emergency procedures directed towards intruders on campus, but not specifically armed assailants.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 07. All sites conducted active shooter drills.

Finding 08: Drills (conducted or planned) center mainly on the presentation of procedures but are progressing toward becoming more realistic and dynamic, which helps create a "mental model" for preconditioning staff and students to act with immediacy.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 08. Bonsall Unified School District staff participate in training that is dynamic and intended to create a mental model to pre-condition them to act with immediacy in response to active shooter events.

Finding 09: As a note of recognition, Sweetwater Union High School District has gone above and beyond state requirements for safety training by demonstrating excellent and thorough levels of preparation.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 09.

Finding 10: Funding for active shooter response and preparedness is given high priority for some districts.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with the Findings 10. The Bonsall Unified School District has made funding to ensure readiness for all emergencies, including active shooter events, as a top priority. The Bonsall Unified School District's Safety Committee has conducted a needs assessment and created a list of priorities to enhance the district's emergency readiness which includes improving emergency supplies, security measures, establishing threat assessment protocols and staff and student training and drills.

Finding 11: Before and after school programs need to be better addressed in safety plans.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 11. As part of the district recognizes safety planning involves a continuous improvement cycle. Safety plans for our before and after school programs are evaluated and refined as a part of this process.

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Finding 12: Many districts expressed a need to train all adults on campus in safety procedures.

The Bonsall Unified School District agrees with Findings 12.

The 2018/19 Grand Jury recommends that by March 1, 2020, the Bonsall Unified School District:

19-01: Increase the priority of funding in school budgets for training, equipment and infrastructure improvements to handle active shooter crisis as a matter of security for staff and student safety.

Recommendation 19-01 has been implemented. The Bonsall Unified School District has identified priorities and timelines for improving school safety. These include implementing visitor screening and management procedures, continued training of all employees in Options-Based Responses, training site-based student threat assessment teams, crisis prevention intervention, securing all doors with an auto-lock door hinges, and creating classroom lockdown supply kits. Funding for school safety is increased beginning in 2019-20 to implement and maintain these priorities.

19-02: Explore alternate or creative sources of funding to supplement the school’s needs to enhance safety measures regarding active shooter situations, including possible grants or community fund-raising efforts.

Recommendation 19-02 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The district is exploring partnerships that can provide additional resources to support school safety initiatives by August 2020:

- Utilization of MSW Interns for Restorative Practices and Trauma Informed Care Practices implementation.
- Exploring partnership with Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) to provide the “Know the Signs” suite of trainings and services at no cost to the district.
- Research free reporting applications, such as SHP’s “Say Something” and Crime Stoppers’ “P3Tips” to determine best fit for the district.
- Research and apply for Federal school security grants from the School Violence Prevention Program for upgrades in safety equipment and supplies.

19-03: Conduct vulnerability studies at all school and use this data to guide the development of the CSSP and EOP.

Recommendation 19-01 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The district will conduct vulnerability assessments on all its schools using the

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SITE ASSESS mobile application from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance (REMS TA) Center. Site teams will be assisted in this effort by district staff and members of our local police and fire departments. All schools will be assessed by December 20, 2019.

19-04: Provide more safety precautions against active shooters, including threat awareness training/reporting, and site physical improvements.

Recommendation 19-04 has been implemented. The district has identified physical improvements needed to limit/control access to our campuses during school hours and activities. The district made these improvements recommendations on June 11, 2018, full implementation by August 2020. Additional safety precautions will be evaluated in response to data collected from vulnerability assessments conducted with each of our school sites as a part of the annual revision of their Comprehensive School Safety Plans.

19-05: Monitor individual school’s planning meetings to develop the CSSP and EOP to ensure collaboration of multi-disciplinary partners (staff, parents, students, first responders, fire department and law enforcement, community agencies) at the *local school level*.

Recommendation 19-05 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The district is in the process of establishing the following by February 2020.

- Roles and responsibilities for district and site administrators.
- Specific benchmarks and dates on which progress will be reviewed.
- Composition of school safety teams and roles of stakeholder groups.
- The District will conduct and complete site level vulnerability assessment collaborating with multi-disciplinary partners (Fire Department, Law Enforcement, LEA and Site Administration, and Risk Management manager) by December 20, 2019.

19-06: Include “Active Shooter” response language in the school’s Comprehensive School Safety Plan and dedicated sections in the Emergency Operations Plans.

Recommendation 19-06 has been implemented. All Bonsall Unified School District school site CSSPs include emergency operations plans specific to active shooter prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery.

19-07: Promote the use of tip hotlines and tip apps by students and parents.

Recommendation 19-07 has been implemented. The district actively promotes the use of WeTip, however we will also be evaluating other reporting applications, including

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SHP’s “Say Something” and Crime Stoppers’ “P3Tips” to determine best fit for the district.

19-08: Include substitute teachers and all other adult workers in the training and practice provided to regular staff on active shooter awareness and responses specific to each school.

Recommendation 19-08 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The district is exploring HR procedures and system to train all adults (including substitute and contracted service providers) who work with students on our campuses. The district is exploring possible solutions and training options, such as, safety walk thru protocols, video training, online training, and other possible tools to assist in active shooter responses training specific to each school site.

19-09: Conduct active shooter drills with staff that are dynamic and produce “immediacy” of response consistent with the school’s approved safety plan.

Recommendation 19-09 has been implemented. The Bonsall Unified School District works closely with the San Diego Sheriff Department to plan active shooter trainings for all our sites. As part of the training, staff members go through a dynamic response visualization practice, whereby staff members are asked to make quick evaluations of their response options (Run, Barricade or Defend) and choose the response that is best suited to protect them in an Active Shooter Event Situation. Training is focuses on developing heightened situational awareness and a safety mindset.

19-10: Use age-appropriate training methods in conducting lockdown and active shooter drills with students.

Recommendation 19-10 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. The district will form a workgroup to consider age appropriate training methods using the “Best Practice Considerations for Schools in Active Shooter and Other Armed Assailant Drills” that was published jointly by the National Association of School Psychologists and the National Association of School Resource Officers. The following is not an exhaustive list, but the workgroup will consider details of parent communication about active shooter event drills with students; help develop a short developmentally appropriate script to be used during emergency drills to prepare all students in reinforcing options based responses in active shooter event situations; utilization of counselors in the implementation counseling techniques for students who may suffer from anxiety about active shooter events situations. Recommendations will be available for implementation as soon as possible, but no later than August 2020.

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19-11: Coordinate detailed emergency plans for school programs held on campus outside of normal school hours, inform all participants and involve the community's support.

Recommendation 19-11 has not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future. All before and after school program staff will be trained on district emergency procedures prior to the start of school. Revised school safety plans will include plans specifically designed for our before and after school programs no later than February 2020. The safety plan will include frequency of emergency drills as well as specific protocols for communication, emergency responses, evacuation, and reunification procedures.