

**TWIN HILLS
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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GRAND JURY

SEP 27 2007

RECEIVED

September 24, 2007

Dennis O'Reilly, Foreperson
Sonoma County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

This letter serves as response to the Sonoma County Grand Jury Final Report, dated June 28, 2007. The Board of Trustees of the Twin Hills Union School District takes the safety of our students very seriously. The Board appreciates the concern the Grand Jury has shown for school safety and is eager to work with the Sonoma County Office of Education and the other Sonoma County school districts to provide a safe environment for learning.

The following are the responses to the Grand Jury's recommendations:

- R1. The Twin Hills Union School District has an employee whose task is to communicate with the Department of Justice and is authorized to access the DOJ website.
- R4. Most of the classified employees of the school district are part-time and take home less than \$500 per month in wages. At this point in time, the District pays for their fingerprinting. Given the small number of employees in this small District and the large numbers of parent volunteers, shifting the costs to the employees would not create sufficient funds in the budget for fingerprinting the volunteers. The Board of Trustees agrees to look at the policy.
- R5. The Board of Trustees agrees to look at this policy. We await guidelines being developed by the Sonoma County Office of Education regarding the screening of volunteers.
- R6. The Board of Trustees agrees to authorize the administration to routinely check the Megan's Law website for the names of volunteers.
- R7. The Board of Trustees will take this suggestion under advisement when developing the guidelines for volunteers with the Sonoma County Office of Education.

- R8. The District would be happy to request this service from the Department of Justice.
- R9. Currently, the District requests FBI clearance for individuals who have lived in California for less than 12 months. We will consider this alternative when we developed guidelines along with the Sonoma County Office of Education.
- R10. The District will review the draft guidelines for fingerprinting from the Sonoma County Office of Education and will be revising our policies accordingly. Currently, we do require fingerprinting of all coaches.
- R11. All outside contractors that come in contact with students in our school are fingerprinted.
- R13. School employees do not start work until their fingerprints are cleared.
- R14. The District would welcome any assistance from the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department.
- R15. The District will take under advisement this suggestion when drafting our volunteer guidelines.

The District will be working closely with the County Office of Education in coming months to further ensure the safety of our students. The District thanks the Grand Jury for its concern for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Armstrong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald F. Armstrong, Ed.D.
Superintendent