



PINER-OLIVET UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 6, 2007

The Honorable Robert S. Boyd
 Presiding Judge
 Sonoma County Superior Court
 Hall of Justice
 600 Administration Drive
 Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Judge Boyd:

Piner-Olivet Union School District Response to Grand Jury Report “See Dick. See Jane. See Dick and Jane go to school. Are they Safe?”

**Prepared by: Marion Guillen., Superintendent.
 Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 5, 2007**

R1: Each public school district in Sonoma County should have at least one employee who is trained and authorized to access DOJ website within an official and specified schedule. This employee should fully understand the way in which information is to be communicated. Further in the absence of this employee, a suitable alternate person or system should be in place to responsibly retrieve valuable information as it is posted. This system should also cover notices from the DOJ sent via U.S. Mail.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District agrees with the finding.

The District has an employee that is trained and does access the DOJ website. We also have an alternate that is able to access the DOJ website. This system does cover notices from the DOJ sent via U.S. Mail.

R4: School districts should consider changing their policies to require successful employee applicants to pay for their own fingerprinting and background responses from DOJ and FBI. There is at least \$65,000 in 06-07 school district budgets for fingerprinting. As costs are shifted to paid employees, districts could use savings to fund costs for volunteers.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District partially disagrees with the finding. It is already difficult to find highly qualified employees in certain categories; we do not wish to make the application process more costly or cumbersome to potential applicants that it is already. Additionally, employment costs are negotiable conditions of employment (Public Employees Relations Board—PERB).

GRAND JURY

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Superintendent

Marion Guillen

Currently, the district funds the costs of required background checks, TB clearance, and pre-employment physicals as required for employees. Ongoing TB clearance are provided by the District nursing staff. Classroom volunteers are supervised by appropriate employees while on-campus. The District is reviewing its policy on TB clearance and fingerprinting for volunteers. The review of this policy will determine whether the District or volunteers will pay for the cost.

R5: School districts should amend their policies, if needed, to allow for volunteers names to be public information and readily available so that a greater scrutiny is provided.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District feels that the recommendation requires further analysis to determine what, exactly, the recommendation entails and to determine if there may be a Public Records Act issue. In any case, we would not be providing address or telephone information to the public, other than that in the district phone directory that is made for our current district parents. Our volunteers are the parents of current students and grandparents of current students.

R6: School should routinely check out names of adult volunteers on Megan's Law website (a public posing of sexual predators) even if fingerprinting is scheduled, and always do so if no fingerprinting is scheduled for that volunteer.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District partially agrees with this finding and will encourage principals and teachers to check for the names of their volunteers on the website, whenever practical and always when they have any suspicion about a potential volunteer. Additionally, we encourage our parents to check the Megan's Law website.

R7: School districts should request criminal activity record from the Sonoma County Superior Courts Records Division on any adult wanting to volunteer with students. This service is available at no cost to a district.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District partially disagrees with this finding.

This recommendation seems somewhat impractical to implement with all volunteers and unnecessary as we have approximately 450 parents volunteering in various capacities. Volunteers are supervised by district employees so for most volunteers, this recommendation would be unnecessary. We agree with and will implement the recommendation for those chaperoning overnight field trips and volunteer coaches.

R8: School districts should, individual and collectively, request that the DOJ implement a system to confirm school district receipt of Notices of Subsequent Arrest. A system that would require the DOJ to follow up if no confirmation was received and would at least give school districts some assurance that information trusted to the U.S. Mail or electronic mail services is actually being received.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District agrees with this finding and agrees to assist the County Superintendent, Dr. Wong, in writing such a letter to the DOJ on behalf of all districts. Currently, we believe we get notices of subsequent arrest. SCOE also provides us with subsequent arrest notices on substitute teachers that work in our district.

R9: School districts should request FBI responses on all classified employees and volunteers that they do a DOJ response regardless of the time they have lived in California. The relatively small fee of \$24 to get prior criminal activity from a national database seems justifiable, reasonable and the right action to take.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District agrees to this finding and has already partially implemented the recommendation. Again, the District's volunteer policy is being reviewed and the recommendation will be taken into consideration during the review of the policy.

R10: School districts should require fingerprinting for all adults (paid and volunteer) involved in athletic programs, overnight field trips, off-campus field trips, and any school sponsored student activity that occurs outside of the normal school day or hours.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District partially agrees with this finding and has already implemented it for paid adults and the District is reviewing its volunteer policy and the recommendation will be taken into consideration during the review of the policy.

R11: School districts should implement provisions of Ed. Code Section 33193 and 45125.2 requiring that certain independent contractors and employees of contractors undergo fingerprinting and background checks.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District agrees with this finding and has implemented it in that we require contractors to confirm that their employees have undergone background checks and they are supervised by district employees while students are on campus.

R13: School districts should not allow new employees to begin work until all pre-employment requirements are met. Most specifically, this means all fingerprinting and criminal history responses that are required must have been completed and properly evaluated.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District agrees to this finding and has already implemented the recommendation.

R14: The Sheriff's Office should make available to all school districts information on how to access services available to them through the Sheriff's Office that would aid districts in determining if individuals should be approved to serve as volunteers in our schools and at school sponsored activities.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District agrees to this finding and if the Sheriff's Office agrees would disseminate such information to all of my employees. (The District's volunteers are parents or grandparents of current students, and middle/high school students on community service projects.)

R15: School districts should require all volunteers to sign an agreement that outlines behavior do's and don'ts and consequences if agreement terms are broken.

The Piner-Olivet Union School District agrees to this finding.

The District is reviewing its volunteer policy and the recommendation will be taken into consideration during review of the policy.

Respectfully submitted,



Marion Guillen
Superintendent