

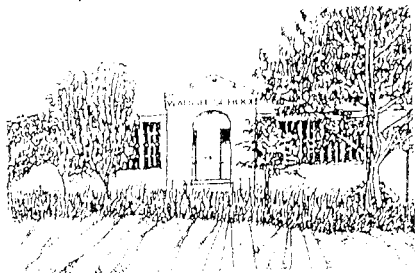
AUG - 9 2007

WAUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1851 Hartman Lane • Petaluma • CA 94954

(707) 765-3331 • FAX (707) 782-9666

Superintendent • Scott Mahoney, Ed.D.



July 30, 2007

GRAND JURY

AUG 31 2007

RECEIVED

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

Dear Judge Boyd:

On behalf of the Waugh School District and pursuant to the requirements of California Penal Code Section 933C, I have enclosed our required responses to the 2006-2007 Final Report of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury.

School campus safety and security is a top priority of our school district. Ensuring student well-being is something that I insist upon on a daily basis.

We have carefully reviewed the Grand Jury's findings, conclusions, commendations and recommendations in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 933 and are pleased to enclose our required responses to the Grand Jury's recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Mahoney, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: Board of Trustees

Corona Creek Elementary School
Scott Mahoney, Ed.D., Principal

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***Relentlessly Pursuing
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Meadow School
Melissa Becker, Principal

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July 30, 2007

Waugh School District Responses to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report Recommendations

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.

Response: *Our District Business Manager is designated as the person responsible for accessing all fingerprint information, and is completely trained in all aspects of the processes involved. The District Superintendent is trained as an alternate.*

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.

Response: *Thank you for the input. Our Board and administration will take this recommendation under advisement.*

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.

Response: *All volunteers at both of our schools are required to sign in each time they visit a school. The sign in sheets are available for public scrutiny.*

R8. Schools should routinely check out names of adult volunteers on Megan's Law website (a public posting of sexual predators) even if fingerprinting is scheduled, and always do so if no fingerprinting is scheduled for that volunteer.

Response: *Our principals routinely check out not only volunteer names but employee names as well on the Megan's Law Website.*

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

Response: *Thank you for the input. We were not aware of this service and will be looking into it.*

R8. School districts should, individually or 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 would at least give school districts some assurance that information trusted to the U.S. Mail or electronic mail servers is actually being received.

Response: *Thank you for the input. In the interest of efficiency, and so as to not duplicate efforts, we will request that our county superintendent look into this.*

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.

Response: *Thank you for the input. Our Board and administration will take this recommendation under advisement.*

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.

Response: *We already do this*

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

Response: *We already do this*

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

Response: *We already do this*

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.

Response: *Thank you for the input. Our Board and administration will take this recommendation under advisement.*