

**Responses to the  
2017-2018 Grand Jury Report:**

*Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools*

2018-2019 Nevada County Grand Jury



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2017-2018 Grand Jury Report:**

***Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools***

**Introduction**

The 2017-2018 Nevada County Grand Jury issued a report on their investigation into safety policies and practices at western Nevada County schools. The report may be viewed [here](#).

The report began with a brief summary:

In the wake of several tragic and highly publicized school violence incidents, school safety and violence prevention are major national concerns. Since the year 2000 there have been nearly 190 school shootings in 43 of the 50 states. The shootings have taken place at a rate of about one per month and left more than 250 students and teachers dead.

With a countywide safety assessment of our local schools as an objective, the Nevada County Grand Jury interviewed selected officials from schools and school districts as well as the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. The [Grand] Jury was interested in determining the extent of deployment of the California legislature's mandated comprehensive school safety plan, Education Code 32280-32289.

The report asked for responses from the Superintendent of Schools, nine school districts, and three law enforcement agencies in western Nevada County. Eastern Nevada County was not included in the investigation because those school districts are under the jurisdiction of the Placer County Superintendent of Schools.

This document includes all of the thirteen responses received.



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SCOTT W. LAY, SUPERINTENDENT

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Grass Valley, CA 95945  
530-478-6400 · fax 530-478-6410

May 22, 2018

Reviewed and approved by  
Judge Anderson 19 Jun 2018

The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson:

The following is the required response to the 2017-2018 Nevada County Grand Jury report entitled, "Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools". As the report was not received until the same day the response was due, we are responding in a timely manner allowing us adequate time to review the report.

We are grateful to the Grand Jury for the timely review of school safety and security. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office views the safety of school staff and students as the number one priority for all school sites. Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office serves as a resource, through our School Safety and Climate Coordinator, to the public and charter schools in Nevada County. We are not directly responsible for the development or implementation of Comprehensive School Safety Plans, mandates, or best practices for the schools in our county, with the exception of Earle Jamieson, but seek to serve them with timely, evidence-based, best practices and training to ensure the safety of staff and students. We appreciate your statement, "There is no absolute means to prevent a crisis from happening within our County" but seek to plan, prevent, and mitigate all that we can to reduce risk, threats, and disasters.

As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office response in regard to Recommendations:

**RECOMENDATIONS:**

**Recommendation 1**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of School should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to*

*teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.*

**The development of a parent’s guide would help to improve communication, alleviate fear, and assure parents that collaboration between responding agencies is in place and practiced. The recommendation requires further analysis, collaboration and discussion between agencies and school sites. Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to require school districts to participate in the development of such a guide but is willing to collaborate and provide resources as requested.**

**Recommendation 2**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.*

**Social media plays a large role in the response to emergencies and drill exercises and should be considered in the preparation of Comprehensive School Safety Plans. Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to require school districts to participate in the development of such a plan but is willing to collaborate and provide resources for best practices as requested.**

**Recommendation 3**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the “ALICE” standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district’s board should direct and fund the deployment of this training and exercise.*

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, through the Safety and School Climate Coordinator currently offers uniform safety and security protocols and ALICE training free of charge to all schools in Nevada County. It is at the discretion of school sites to take advantage of and secure training dates. Time restraints appear to be a barrier to this recommendation.**

**Recommendation 4**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.*

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to establish a standard of communication for school site communication systems. Each school site must consider the communication means and methods in place on their specific site. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools is willing to provide resources and recommendations for best practices to school sites as requested.**



**Recommendation 6**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.*

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority or jurisdiction over School Resource officers to make decisions on the use and deployment of Resource Officers. However, collaboration and discussion between schools, districts, and law enforcement on the most effective use and deployment of Resource Officers would be of value. Nevada County Superintendent of Schools is willing to offer support and recommendations for best practices to participating school districts and law enforcement agencies.**

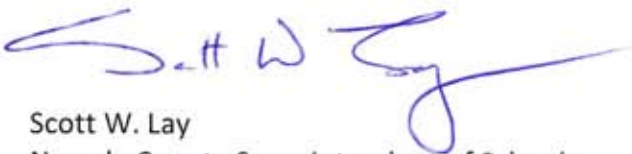
**Recommendation 7**

*A working group of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, the Grass Valley Police Department, the Nevada City Police Department, Nevada County Behavioral Health (especially concerning behavior of the assailant), and school administration and staff should be created to develop a model program for all schools to utilize when examining and creating their own outside assembly and accounting program.*

**Nevada County Superintendent of School works closely with all of the above-mentioned agencies in an effort to develop model program resources based on best practices for safety. The development for outside assembly and accounting programs are dependent on school site, size, population, and environment. Input from law enforcement and fire services are sought prior to the establishment of assembly sites and accountability protocol. In response to recent incidents nation-wide, assembly locations have been reviewed and changed on some of the Nevada County school sites. Each school site must develop a plan that considers all hazards and security and make accommodations for safe evacuation sites and accountability protocol. Nevada County Superintendent of Schools is willing to offer continued support on this endeavor.**

Thank you for your countywide safety assessment of our local schools. We continue to make changes based on "lessons learned" to assure the safety and security of our staff and students on all Nevada County school sites.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Lay  
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools





CHICAGO PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 15725 Mt. Olive Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
 (530) 346-2153 Fax (530) 346-8559  
 Dan Zeisler, Superintendent

Katie Kohler, Principal

The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
 Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
 201 Church Street  
 Nevada City, CA 95959

May 24, 2018

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson,

TO: Audrey G  
 Re: [Signature]  
 Reviewed by TMS  
 6/27/18

Pursuant to Penal Code 933.05, here are the requested responses from the Chicago Park School District to Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, and R8 found in the Grand Jury's report on *Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools*:

### Recommendations

**R1** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

Agree

**Our current emergency plan does not include a parents' guide. A template from the Nevada County Schools Office (NCSOS) that our District could customize would serve as an asset to our community and communicate proper protocol during an emergency.**

**R2** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

Agree

**The appropriate use of social media by parents and students during actual school emergencies should be addressed in the parents' guide referred to in R1.**

**R3** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE"



CHICAGO PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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 Dan Zeisler, Superintendent

Katie Kohler, Principal

standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment and training of this exercise.

**Disagree**

**The NCSOS already has developed a means to train teachers (and students) in uniform safety and security protocols that include "ALICE" training. Chris Espedal, the NCSOS Safety and School Climate Coordinator has already in-serviced staff and students at Chicago Park, with plans to have her back on an annual basis for on-going teacher training. It is not the board's position to direct and fund an exercise such as this; it is an administrative duty.**

**R4** The Nevada Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.

**Disagree**

**Communications during an emergency between our front office and teachers is in place as stated in our local emergency procedures plan. Once teachers have been contacted by the office, a call to the NCSOS to make them aware of our emergency is protocol.**

**R5** Each district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of a comprehensive school safety plan.

**Agree**

**All classrooms at Chicago Park have inside door locks, appropriate shading, and evacuation routes listed by the entrance of the room. There is a camera system installed with 13 strategically placed cameras around the campus for security measures. An updated comprehensive federal and local school safety plan was approved by our safety committee and school board in the Spring of 2018. A quick reference guide which lists procedures for emergencies such as lockdowns, evacuation for wildfire, shelter in place, emergency phone numbers, etc., is readily accessible for teachers in their classrooms.**

**R6** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

**Neither Agree or Disagree**



CHICAGO PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 15725 Mt. Olive Road, Grass Valley, CA 95945  
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 Dan Zeisler, Superintendent

Katie Kohler, Principal

**When an officer's presence is needed on campus (which is not very often), our protocol is to contact Dispatch at the County Sheriff's Dept. and they send a deputy out. Sometimes it's a Resource Officer and sometimes it is not. Based on our distance from where our Resource Officers are stationed, I am glad that our needs are not solely limited to the availability of a Resource Officer and a patrol car is sent instead.**

**R8** Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure evacuation.

**Agree**

**Chicago Park practices evacuation drills on a monthly basis. Students are not excused from the drill until everyone is accounted for. A discussion at the following staff meeting ensues to assure we are operating in the safest, most efficient manner when conducting these drills. Evacuation routes are posted inside each classroom including the computer lab, art room, and gymnasium. A master key has been placed in a lock box (at the request of law enforcement) at the Chicago Park Store so they would have immediate access to all buildings on campus upon arrival.**

### **CONCLUSION**

We are very proactive at Chicago Park School when it comes to safety. We practice fire and earthquake drills as well as lockdowns and shelter in place. Our safety committee meets monthly and reviews our local safety plan throughout the year. We have brought in Chief Bierwagen from the Chicago Park/Peardale fire department to help us develop a wildfire evacuation plan. We are constantly bringing updated safety policies to the Board to maintain a policy binder that reflects the most current practices available to us. One of the most valuable tools for safety we have is Chris Espedal, our County School Safety and Climate Coordinator. She has provided a wealth of knowledge to staff by conducting brief yet powerful trainings in ALICE, and met with our K-3 and 4-8 students at assemblies to discuss safety not only at school, but at home and while in the community.

I am grateful the Grand Jury has taken an active role in assessing the safety of our schools.

Thank you,

*Dan Zeisler*

Dan Zeisler  
 Superintendent



# Clear Creek Elementary School District

"since 1867"



The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

## Board of Trustees

Tania Fisher  
Patsy Hannebrink  
Bart Riebe  
Daron Scarborough  
Karen Wallace

May 27, 2018

**Reviewed and approved by  
Judge Anderson 19 Jun 2018**

Superintendent  
Dan Zeisler

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson,

Pursuant to Penal Code 933.05, here are the requested responses from the Clear Creek School District to Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, and R8 found in the Grand Jury's report on *Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools*:

### Recommendations

**R1** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

#### **Agree**

**As our current plan does not include a parent guide, uniform instructions developed in conjunction with the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and law enforcement would provide beneficial information to our community members on what to do and what not to do in an emergency situation.**

**R2** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

#### **Agree**

**A workable uniform plan for the use of social media during an emergency and drills would be beneficial to our parents and school community.**

**R3** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment and training of this exercise.

**Disagree**

Our school has have taken advantage of the "ALICE" training provided by the Nevada County Superintendent of School's Safety Coordinator. She has also provided input into updating our Comprehensive School Safety Plan. She is scheduled to return at the beginning of next school year to do refresher training for our staff. It is not the responsibility of the school board to direct the deployment of this training and exercise. It is an administrative responsibility.

R4 The Nevada Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.

**Disagree**

It might be difficult for the Superintendent's office to establish a standard means of secure communication at all schools because each school varies in staffing, layout, and equipment. Our school has established procedures for communication between staff and the office in both our Comprehensive and local safety plan.

R5 Each district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of a comprehensive school safety plan.

**Agree**

Clear Creek has inside door locks, shading for doors and windows, and we installed 9 security cameras in December of 2017. We have updated our Comprehensive School Safety Plan and it has been approved by our safety committee and school board. A quick reference guide which describes what to do in various emergencies has also been updated and posted in rooms throughout the school.

R6 The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

**Partially Agree**

The use and deployment of Resource Officers could be helpful, but funding and school location may not make this recommendation feasible. If an officer's presence is needed on campus, our protocol is to contact Dispatch at the Nevada County Sheriff's Dept. to send a



deputy out. Based on the distance from where Resource Officers are stationed and our rural school location, the deployment of a Resource Officer may not meet our needs in an emergency.

R8 Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure evacuation.

**Agree**


We have a fire evacuation plan and have arrangements with neighboring properties to allow for a school evacuation should that be the safest direction to go in case of a school emergency. As a school, we practice fire, shelter in place, lockdown, and earthquake drills as required which includes taking attendance for all classes. We have evacuation routes posted in classrooms and have purchased lockdown kits for every classroom if there is a need to shelter in place for a longer period of time.

### CONCLUSION

The safety of all of students, staff, and parents is an important topic at Clear Creek. We practice drills regularly. Our Safety Committee/Site Council meets monthly to review both our comprehensive and local plans in order to provide input on updates or to refine procedures. Our School Board reviews important policies such as Anti Bullying, Harassment, and Suicide Prevention and updates policies as needed. We have brought Chris Espedal, the Nevada County Safety Coordinator to our school to train staff on the ALICE protocol. The principal has met with Chris Espedal on two occasions in order for her to provide information on best practices and update safety procedures as they evolve and change. She is scheduled to return at the beginning of the next school year to provide refresher training for returning staff and initial training for our new staff members.

I am grateful the Grand Jury has taken an active role in assessing the safety of our schools.

Thank you,

  
Dan Zeisler  
Superintendent



10840 Gilmore Way  
 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
 (530) 273-4483  
 FAX (530) 273-0248



# Grass Valley School District

**Eric Fredrickson**  
 Superintendent

June 12, 2018

**Reviewed and approved by  
 Judge Anderson 19 Jun 2018**

Honorable Thomas M. Anderson  
 Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
 210 Church Street  
 Nevada City, CA 95959

**Re: Grass Valley School District, Response to the Nevada County May 4, 2018 Grand Jury Report, "Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools"**

Honorable Judge Anderson:

Pursuant to California Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the Board of Education of the Grass Valley School District hereby submits its formal response to the 2017-2018 Nevada County Grand Jury Report entitled, "Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools"

## **OVERVIEW OF BOARD'S RESPONSE**

The Grass Valley School District and Board of Trustees are grateful to the Grand Jury for the timely review of school safety and security. The Grass Valley School District views the safety of school staff and students as the number one priority for all school sites. We appreciate your statement, "There is no absolute means to prevent a crisis from happening within our County" but seek to plan, prevent, and mitigate all that we can to reduce risk, threats, and disasters.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION'S RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R1** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

**Agree**

**The development of a parent's guide would help to improve communication, alleviate fear, and assure parents that collaboration between responding agencies is in place and practiced. The recommendation requires further analysis, collaboration and discussion**

**between agencies and school sites. The Grass Valley School District is willing to collaborate and participate in the development of such a guide.**

**R2** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

#### **Agree**

**Social media plays a large role in the response to emergencies and drill exercises and should be considered in the revisions of the Comprehensive Safety Plans. The Grass Valley School District is willing to collaborate and participate in developing this resource.**

**R3** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment of this training and exercise.

#### **Partially agree**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, through the Safety and School Climate Coordinator currently offers uniform safety and security protocols and ALICE training free of charge to all schools in Nevada County. All schools in the Grass Valley School District participates in this training offered by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office and has implemented the "ALICE" standard in all of our school sites and programs.**

**R4** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.

#### **Disagree**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to make recommendations for school site communication systems. Each school site must consider the communication means and methods in place on their specific site. The Grass Valley School District schools coordinate with the District for consistency in this area of safety.**

**R5** Each district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of a comprehensive school safety plan.

#### **Agree**

**The Grass Valley School District has conducted a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and has made improvements including modifying door locks, adding window shades, and security cameras at all school sites, preschools, and district buildings.**

**This is part of the Grass Valley School Districts' Comprehensive Safety Plan and reviewed annually in District Safety Committee meetings.**

**R6** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

**Partially Agree**

**The Grass Valley School District does not have the authority or jurisdiction over School Resource Officers to make decisions on the use and deployment of Resource Officers. However, collaboration and discussion between schools, districts, and law enforcement on the most effective use and deployment of Resource Officers would be of value.**

**R8** Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.

**Agree**

**The Grass Valley School District has a Comprehensive Safety Plan in place and part of that plan is site-specific process and procedures to safely evacuate all students and staff, to a safe off-site location if needed. The Grass Valley School District and all its school sites have specific plans in place and coordinate with local law enforcement and the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools when conducting drills to, to the best of our ability, plan and improve this process.**

**CONCLUSION**

Thank you for your countywide safety assessment of our schools. We shall continue to make changes based on "lessons learned" to assure the safety and security of our staff and student on all Grass Valley School District sites.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Pettitt, President  
Board of Education  
Grass Valley School District

cc: Members of the GVSD Board of Education  
Eric Fredrickson, GVSD Superintendent  
Grass Valley School District  
10840 Gilmore Way  
Grass Valley, CA 95945





*Building a strong foundation  
for learning and creativity*

**Reviewed and approved by  
Judge Anderson 19 Jun 2018**

The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

June 12, 2018

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson:

The following is the required response to the Grand Jury report on the subject of *Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools*.

We are grateful to the Grand Jury for the timely review of school safety and security. The Nevada City Elementary School District views the safety of school staff and students as the number one priority for all school sites. We, as school district employees, are responsible for the development and implementation of Comprehensive School Safety Plans, mandates, and best practices for the schools in our district. This is a responsibility we take seriously. We strive to provide appropriate training regarding these plans to our staff and students each year. We agree with your statement, "There is no absolute means to prevent a crisis from happening within our County" but seek to plan, prevent, and mitigate all that we can to reduce risk, threats, and disasters. For many of us, this responsibility has weighed heavily since Columbine, and thus the concerns you have communicated are shared.

As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office response in regard to Recommendations:

**Recommendations:**

**R1** The Nevada County Superintendent of School should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

**Agree**

**The development of a parent's guide would help to improve communication, alleviate fear, and assure parents that collaboration between responding agencies is in place and practiced. The Nevada**

**City Elementary School District will participate in the development of this guide and make it specific to our schools.**

**R2** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

**Agree**

**Social media plays a large role in the response to emergencies and drill exercises and should be included in the Parent's Guide referred to in Recommendation 1.**

**R3** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment of this training and exercise.

**Disagree**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, through the Safety and School Climate Coordinator, currently offers uniform safety and security protocols and ALICE training free of charge to all schools in Nevada County. The Nevada City Elementary School District has sought the training from the School Climate Coordinator, and has implemented the guidance shared.**

**R4** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.

**Disagree**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to make recommendations for school site communication systems. Each school site must consider the communication means and methods in place on their specific site as every school district has different phone and intercom systems.**

**R6** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

**Agree**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority or jurisdiction over local law enforcement agencies to make decisions regarding the use and deployment of School Resource Officers. However, collaboration and discussion between schools, districts, and law enforcement on the most effective use and deployment of Resource Officers would be of value.**



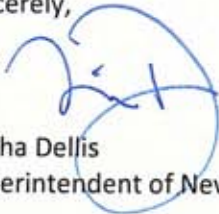
**R8** Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evaluation.

**Partially agree**

**The development for outside assembly and accounting programs are dependent on school site, size, and environment. Input from law enforcement and fire services are sought prior to establishment of assembly and accountability protocol. Each school site must develop a plan that considers hazards and security then make accommodations for safe evacuation sites and accountability protocol. Safety is the first priority with accountability following.**

Thank you for your countywide safety assessment of our local schools. We will continue to make changes based on "lessons learned" to assure the safety and security of our staff and students.

Sincerely,



Trisha Dellis  
Superintendent of Nevada City Elementary SD





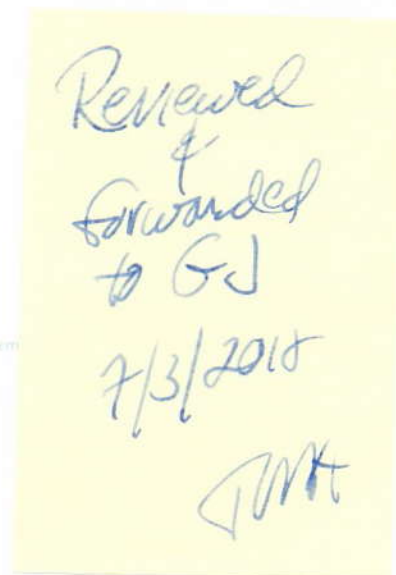
Best River High School

Gladotti Early College High School

Nevada Union High School

North Point Academy

June 27, 2018  
 The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
 Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
 201 Church Street  
 Nevada City, CA 95959



Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson:

The following is the required response to the 2017-2018 Nevada County Grand Jury report entitled, "Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools."

We appreciate the concern of the Grand Jury for its timely review of school safety and security in light of the recent tragic events at schools in Parkland, FL and throughout the United States. Student and staff safety is a number one priority for the Nevada Joint Union High School District. This priority as articulated and committed to by Resolution #39-17/18 of the Board of Trustees at our regularly scheduled board meeting of June 13, 2018 (copy attached, Exhibit A.)

As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, the Nevada Joint Union High School District response in regard to Recommendations follows hereto:

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Recommendation 1

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.*

This recommendation is partially implemented. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools' office employs a School Safety and Climate Coordinator who provides resources, training and services to all schools in Nevada County. The incumbent employee is a former Nevada Joint Union High School District employee and as such, is deeply informed of the needs of the schools in our district. The Nevada Joint Union High School District is interested in continued analysis, collaboration and discussion between agencies in the development of such a parents' guide. However, we want to make it clear that some site specific information about emergency procedures should not be shared with the public so as to not inform the tactics of the assailant and / or interfere with our schools' ability to address emergency situations effectively.

### Recommendation 2

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.*

This recommendation is partially implemented. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools' office holds a monthly meeting to bring agencies together in a standing group, Community Agencies United for Safe Schools and Safe Streets, aka CAUSSSS. Held on the first Friday of each month, and hosted by the Grass Valley Police Department, schools, Nevada County Office of the Sherriff, Probation, Child Protective Services, California Highway Patrol, the Office of Emergency Services, Durham School Services and Behavioral Health each attend and share immediate concerns in our schools and on the streets.

At the last meeting, it was reported that the NCSOS hosted a South County Safety Forum on Monday, May 7, 2018 at the Bear River High School Theater. Representatives from Nevada County OES, Sherriff's Office, CHP, Cal Fire, Higgins Fire District and South County school administrators heard about the collaboration efforts of the aforementioned agencies in working to keep schools safe. The Nevada Joint Union High School District hopes to hold a similar event in the North County in the fall.

The Board and Administration of the Nevada Joint Union High School District share the concern of the Grand Jury regarding the use of social media by parents, students and community during possible lockdown situations. The NJUHSD strives to communicate truthful information on a timely basis through our School Messenger system and School District Social Media accounts. Unfortunately, our efforts are often thwarted by unverified information being shared on Social Media diverting our attention from the task at hand. The Nevada Joint Union High School District continues to look forward to ongoing collaboration with the NSCOS' office and community agencies as we strive to develop strategies to communicate timely, truthful information and discourage unfounded rumors on social media.

### Recommendation 3

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment of this training and exercise.*

This recommendation is partially implemented with full implementation expected during the Fall Semester of 2018. Review of the ALICE standards were covered at staff meetings in the 2018 Spring Semester. Many of these review sessions were attended or facilitated by the NCSOS' School Safety and Climate Coordinator. Additionally, the Grass Valley Police Department assisted Silver Springs High School in doing a "run, hide, fight" training with students and staff at the school.

The administration of the Nevada Joint Union High School District is in the process of planning a comprehensive ALICE training on the afternoon of our countywide staff development day to be held on Monday, September 17, 2018. We are hoping to use the School Safety and Climate Coordinator along with our Teen CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) to demonstrate various classroom scenarios in which the ALICE (Alert, lockdown, inform, confront, escape) protocol would be implemented. Teachers and staff will be able to observe the drills and debrief. The Nevada Joint Union

High School District would be happy to invite any of the interested feeder school districts to participate in observing the drills and participating in the debrief activities .

Lockdown and evacuation drills are held semi-annually at our schools, once in the fall and once during the spring. Students will receive ALICE training during those drills.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees did declare its intent to training of staff and student as evidenced by Resolution #39-17/18 adopted by the Board of Trustees at our regularly scheduled board meeting of June 13, 2018 (copy attached, Exhibit A.)

#### Recommendation 4

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with the districts and schools to establish a standard means of secure communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.*

This recommendation has been implemented by the Nevada Joint Union High School District. Each school site has a secure telephone number that is not published to the public. Additionally, each classroom has a stocked emergency response bag and a flip chart with protocol for the top 5 – 6 likely emergency situations in our schools.

The Nevada Joint Unified School District has made great progress in this area due to our Measure B bond funding. We installed a new head end Public Address System at both Bear River and Nevada Union. New speakers were installed throughout the campus at Bear River, which had the older of the two systems. During the summer of 2018, a new fully automated fire alarm system is being installed at Bear River High School replacing the original equipment. The Nevada Joint Union High School District is grateful to the voters of Nevada County, for whom school safety was a priority allowing us to do these and other projects.

#### Recommendation 5

*Each district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of the comprehensive school safety plan.*

This recommendation has been implemented by the Nevada Joint Union High School District. The district intends to continue to follow through with ongoing assessment and upgrades to the physical safety of our school sites.

During the summer of 2017, the Nevada Joint Union High School District installed new surveillance cameras throughout our district. The new cameras have a greater range of coverage and detail than our former cameras. With our new camera system we have been able to catch, correct and prosecute a greater number of both student inappropriate behavior and crimes outside of school hours committed on our campuses. The surveillance system was one of our first funded projects through our Measure B bond issuance increasing school safety dramatically. The Nevada Joint Union High School District is grateful to the voters of Nevada County for whom school safety was a priority, allowing us to do this and other projects.

Recommendation 6

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.*

This recommendation has been implemented by the Nevada Joint Union High School District along with the Nevada County Sherriff's Department and the Grass Valley Police Department. The Nevada Joint Union High School District intends to continue to follow through with these partnerships.

Recommendation 8

*Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.*

This recommendation has been implemented by the Nevada Joint Union High School District. In response to lessons learned by schools throughout the United States after each tragic school shooting, the Nevada Joint Union High School District has made adjustments to outside assembly areas and intends to continue to follow through with ongoing assessment and adjustments.

Regretfully, the Nevada Joint Union High School District must agree with the Grand Jury's conclusion that we cannot absolutely prevent a crisis. However, we can and will improve not only our schools' physical safety but the relationships within our schools and community.

Additionally, the Nevada Joint Union High School District wishes to assure the Grand Jury and the entire school community that, just as we plan and prepare for an active shooter event, we plan and prepare for other events that present a clear and present danger to our community including wild fire, flooding and extreme weather events. The NJUHSD wants to thank and commend the collaborative nature of the NCSOS, the County of Nevada, our local law enforcement and fire agencies and all who work diligently and selflessly to make our community a better place to live, work and go to school.

Sincerely,



Jim Drew  
President

Nevada Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees

**PENN VALLEY UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

14806 Pleasant Valley Rd., Penn Valley, CA 95946-9722  
Phone (530) 432-7311 Fax (530) 432-7314  
www.pvuesd.org



Torie F. England, Ed.D. - Superintendent



BY: .....

*Reviewed  
8/20/18  
TMM*

The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

July 19, 2018

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson,

Pursuant to Penal Code 933.05, here are the requested responses from the Penn Valley Union Elementary School District to Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, and R8 found in the Grand Jury's report on *Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools*:

Recommendations

**R1** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

**Agree**

**Our current emergency plan does not include a parents' guide. A template from the Nevada County Schools Office (NCSOS) that our District could customize would serve as an asset to our community and communicate proper protocol during an emergency.**

**R2** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

**Agree**

**The appropriate use of social media by parents and students during actual school emergencies should be addressed in the parents' guide referred to in R1.**

**R3** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the

schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment and training of this exercise.

### **Disagree**

**The NCSOS already has developed a means to train teachers (and students) in uniform safety and security protocols that include "ALICE" training. Chris Espedal, the NCSOS Safety and School Climate Coordinator has already in-serviced staff throughout the Penn Valley Elementary School District, with plans to complete "refresher" professional development each year. It is not the Board's position to direct and fund an exercise such as this; it is an administrative duty.**

**R4** The Nevada Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.

### **Disagree**

**Communications during an emergency between our front office and teachers is in place as stated in our local emergency procedures plan. Once teachers have been contacted by the office, a call to the NCSOS to make them aware of our emergency is protocol.**

**R5** Each district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of a comprehensive school safety plan.

### **Agree**

**It is our protocol to keep all classroom doors locked during the school day as both of our campuses are open where the community has access. Appropriate shading and evacuation routes are posted at the entrance of every room. We have video surveillance on both campuses that are used regularly as needed for safety precautions. An updated comprehensive federal and local school safety plan was approved by our stakeholder groups and Board of Trustees in February 14, 2018. A quick reference guide which lists procedures for emergencies such as lockdowns, evacuation for wildfire, shelter in place, emergency phone numbers, etc., is readily accessible for teachers in their classrooms.**

**R6** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

### **Neither Agree or Disagree**

**When an officer's presence is needed on campus (which is not very often), our protocol is to contact Dispatch at the Nevada County Sheriff's Dept. and they send a deputy out. Sometimes it is a Resource Officer and sometimes it is not. Based on our distance from where our Resource Officers are stationed, I am glad that our needs are not solely limited to the availability of a Resource Officer and a patrol car is sent instead.**



**R8** Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure evacuation.

### Agree

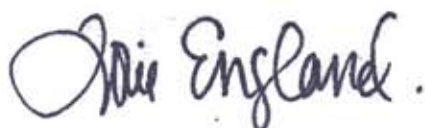
**The Penn Valley School District practices evacuation drills on a monthly basis. Students are not excused from the drill until everyone is accounted for. A discussion at the following staff meeting ensues to assure we are operating in the safest, most efficient manner when conducting these drills. Evacuation routes are posted inside each classroom including the computer lab, art room, and gymnasium. A master key has been placed in a lock box (at the request of law enforcement) so they would have immediate access to all buildings on campus upon arrival.**

### CONCLUSION

We are very proactive throughout the Penn Valley Union Elementary School District when it comes to safety. We practice fire and earthquake drills, as well as lockdowns and shelter in place. Our stakeholder groups meet regularly and reviews our local safety plan throughout the year. We are constantly bringing updated safety policies to the Board to maintain a policy binder that reflects the most current practices available to us. One of the most valuable tools for safety we have is Chris Espedal, our Nevada County School Safety and Climate Coordinator. She has provided a wealth of knowledge to staff by conducting powerful trainings in ALICE along with the Penn Valley Fire District, Cal Fire, and local law enforcement.

We appreciate the Grand Jury and community for taking an active role in assessing the safety of our schools.

Thank you,



Torie F. England, Ed.D.  
Superintendent





July 30, 2018

The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Reviewed  
8/20/18  
TMA

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson:

The following is the required response to the 2017-2018 Nevada County Grand Jury report entitled, "*Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools*". As the report was not received until the same day the response was due, we are responding in a timely manner allowing us adequate time to review the report.

We are grateful to the Grand Jury for the timely review of school safety and security. Pleasant Ridge Union School District views the safety of school staff and students as the number one priority for all school sites. We appreciate your statement, "There is no absolute means to prevent a crisis from happening within our County" but seek to plan, prevent, and mitigate all that we can to reduce risk, threats, and disasters.

As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, Pleasant Ridge Union School District's response in regard to Recommendations:

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Recommendation 1

*The Nevada County Superintendent of School should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.*

The development of a parent's guide would help to improve communication, alleviate fear, and assure parents that collaboration between responding agencies are in place and practiced. The recommendation requires further analysis, collaboration and discussion between agencies and school sites. Pleasant Ridge Union School District would participate in the development of such a guide and is willing to collaborate for completion of a county wide parent's guide.



*The Pleasant Ridge Union School District provides a safe and engaging environment where students develop academic, social and life skills to become productive, responsible citizens in a constantly changing global society.*

22580 Kingston Lane, Grass Valley, California 95949 ~ 530-268-2800 ~ www.prsd.us



**Recommendation 2**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.*

Social media plays a large role in the response to emergencies and drill exercises and should be considered in the preparation of Comprehensive School Safety Plans. Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to require school districts to participate in the development of such a plan, but Pleasant Ridge Union School District is willing to collaborate and develop best practices. May of this school year South County schools organized with NCSOS a safety forum which included all first responders of Nevada County.

**Recommendation 3**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment of this training and exercise.*

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, through the Safety and School Climate Coordinator, currently offers uniform safety and security protocols and ALICE training free of charge to all schools in Nevada County. Pleasant Ridge has used the county Safety and School Climate Coordinator to train staff at Pleasant Ridge Union School District.

**Recommendation 4**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.*

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to establish a standard of communication for school site communication systems. Pleasant Ridge has the ability to communicate at each of their school sites through office to classroom intercom systems. Also, each classroom has a phone that each teacher can be contacted on.

**Recommendation 5**

*Each school district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of a comprehensive school plan.*

Pleasant Ridge Union School District updates their safety plan annually with the assistance of parents, community agencies and school officials. With the required mandatory safety drills, school officials seek input from all members that participate in those safety drills. When the evaluation comes back of needed improvement, the school and district address those issues immediately. All schools within the district have surveillance cameras in strategic locations for safety purposes. The district purchased more last year to cover more outlying areas. All schools within PRUSD update and comply with the site comprehensive safety plan.

**Recommendation 6**

*The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.*

Pleasant Ridge School District does not have the authority or jurisdiction over School Resource officers to make decisions on the use and deployment of Resource Officers.

However, collaboration and discussion between schools and law enforcement on the most effective use and deployment of Resource Officers would be of value. Nevada County Superintendent of Schools has offered support and recommendations for best practices to participating school districts and law enforcement agencies through monthly CAUSSSS meetings.

**Recommendation 8**

*Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.*

Pleasant Ridge Union School District agrees with this recommendation and has been in conversation with local policing authorities as well as the local fire department to assist with this evacuation. [In](#) May of this year, South County schools along with NCSOS organized a school and community forum where all members of the community were invited to understand how each agency is important to overall school safety. PRUSD will continue to work with the local agencies in making sure our students are safe during school hours as well as on the way home.

Thank you for your countywide safety assessment of our local schools. We continue to make changes based on "lessons learned" to assure the safety and security of our staff and students on all Nevada County school sites.

Sincerely,

Deanne Opdahl  
Angela Giordano  
Jay Adamson  
Jonathan Salter  
Kelly McKinley

Pleasant Ridge Union School District  
Board of Trustees

Cc: Rusty S. Clark, Superintendent  
Pleasant Ridge Union School District  
22580 Kingston Lane  
Grass Valley, CA 95949





## ***Twin Ridges Elementary School District***

*James Berardi, Superintendent/Principal*

16661 Old Mill Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959

(530) 265-9052  
FAX (530) 265-3049

The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

*Reviewed  
11/29/18  
JBA*

October 29, 2018

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson,

Pursuant to Penal Code 933.05, here are the requested responses from the Twin Ridges Elementary School District to Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, and R8 found in the Grand Jury's report on *Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools*:

### **Recommendations**

**R1** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

### **Agree**

**We feel that The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSoS) has worked well with the districts within the county. They have provided a template that standardizes the process of creating a comprehensive Safety Report. However, our current emergency plan does not include a parents' guide. Any additional assistance in this would be greatly appreciated. Small districts within the county do not have the human resources that the larger districts have in order to complete these tasks.**

**R2** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

**Agree**

The district agrees in the idea of having a uniform and workable plan. However, the rural isolation of the Twin Ridges School District reduces and limits the extent of dissemination of information through all social media. Many of our families are not connected either out of choice or the unavailability of these platforms.

**R3** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment and training of this exercise.

**Disagree**

The NCSOS already has developed a means to train teachers (and students) in uniform safety and security protocols that include "ALICE" training. Chris Espedal, the NCSOS Safety and School Climate Coordinator has already in-serviced staff and students at Twin Ridges for several years in a row. This is an administrative function, not a board duty.

**R4** The Nevada Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.

**Disagree**

We strongly believe that this is a local decision and would not be effective if it was standardized throughout the county. Our unique isolation and geography is much different than the rest of the other districts within Nevada County. TRESA uses radios as well as an intercom system to communicate with all staff. Once teachers have been contacted by the office, a call to the NCSOS to make them aware of our emergency is protocol.

**R5** Each district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of a comprehensive school safety plan.

**Agree**

All classrooms at Grizzly Hill have had inside door bolt locks installed recently and window privacy tinting was added this year to all windows. Evacuation routes are posted by the entrance of each classroom. We have a camera system installed with 11 strategically placed cameras around the campus for security measures.



**R6** The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

**Agree**

**As was stated in previous responses, our isolation could be an issue because of distance from town to either site within the district. If and when we call dispatch, the response time is based on the location of the closest deputy or other peace officer. Twin Ridges would welcome all collaboration between the above mention organizations.**

**R8** Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure evacuation.

**Agree**

**The Twin Ridges Elementary School District practices safety drills on a monthly basis. Students are not excused from the drill until everyone is accounted for. Discussions following these drills with staff allow us to reflect and make changes as necessary. We perceive drills as a fluid process and make adaptations as needed. Further collaboration with law enforcement is planned.**

### **CONCLUSION**

Twin Ridges is very proactive when it comes to safety. We practice fire and lockdowns drills and shelter in place on a regular basis. The use of Chris Espedal, our County School Safety and Climate Coordinator, each year has assisted us in keeping our staff up to date on the latest best practices. She has been a wealth of knowledge and a great resource within Nevada County.

We would like to thank you for your continued interest in our student's safety within Nevada County.

Thank you,



James Berardi  
Superintendent/Principal





David Curry, Superintendent

*A Tradition of Excellence Since 1868*

May 23, 2018  
 The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
 Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
 201 Church Street  
 Nevada City, CA 95959



Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson:

The following is the required response to the 2017-2018 Nevada County Grand Jury report entitled, "Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools". As the report was not received until the same day the response was due, we are responding in a timely manner allowing us adequate time to review the report.

We are grateful to the Grand Jury for the timely review of school safety and security. The Union Hill School District views the safety of school staff and students as the number one priority for all school sites. Union Hill School District serves communities in Nevada County through our School Safety Committee. We develop and implement a Comprehensive School Safety Plan, mandates, and best practices for the schools in our district and seek to serve them with timely, evidence-based, best practices and training to ensure the safety of staff and students on all campuses. We appreciate your statement, "There is no absolute means to prevent a crisis from happening within our County" but seek to plan, prevent, and mitigate all that we can to reduce risk, threats, and disasters.

As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, the Union Hill School District response in regard to Recommendations:

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The Nevada County Superintendent of School should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

**The recommendation has not yet been implemented, and no timeframe has been established for implementation due to the dependency on other agencies.**

**The development of a parent's guide would help to improve communication, alleviate fear, and assure parents that collaboration between responding agencies is in place and practiced. The**



David Curry, Superintendent

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**recommendation requires further analysis, collaboration and discussion between Union Hill School District, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and agencies.**

2. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

**The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future; with a timeframe for implementation.**

**Social media plays a large role in the response to emergencies and drill exercises and should be considered in the preparation of Comprehensive School Safety Plans. Union Hill School District has included the role of social media in the Comprehensive School Safety Plan. Union Hill School District does not have authority over Nevada County Superintendent of Schools but will work with NCSOS staff as needed to consider the appropriate use of social media in a crisis.**

3. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should develop the means to train teachers in uniform safety and security protocols and include the exercise and use of the "ALICE" standard in each of the schools. Additionally, each school district's board should direct and fund the deployment of this training and exercise.

**The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will likely be implemented in the future.**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, through the Safety and School Climate Coordinator currently offers uniform safety and security protocols and ALICE training free of charge to all schools in Nevada County. Union Hill School District Safety Committee was trained by NCSOS on May 21 and October 6, 2014 and teachers were trained on August 12 and November 5, 2014. On August 14, 2017 Patti Carter, Office of Emergency Services, spoke to the staff regarding responsibilities emergency situations. Union Hill School District does not have authority over Nevada County Superintendent of Schools but will work with NCSOS staff as needed.**

4. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with districts and schools to establish a standard of communication between the front office and the teachers, regardless of their location.

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

**Union Hill School District does coordinate with Nevada County Superintendent of Schools regarding communication. There are email notifications and phone calls made when incidents**



David Curry, Superintendent

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**occur. Union Hill School District has a communication protocol with two-way radios in the hands of every employee for instant communication not matter the location.**

5. Each district and school should conduct a thorough physical evaluation of classroom security and visibility including inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. Each school should be required to be in conformance with the physical demands and characteristics of a comprehensive school safety plan.

**The recommendation has been implemented.**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to establish a standard of communication for school site communication systems. Each school site must consider the communication means and methods in place on their specific site. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools does provide resources and recommendations for best practices to Union Hill School District as requested.**

**Union Hill School District conducts an annual review of the school grounds considering inside door locks, appropriate shading, and camera systems. In the last three years Union Hill School District has ordered and installed blinds for every window and door, retro-fitted door locks to be locked from the inside, and installed over 30 security cameras. In 2018 UHSD installed four new cameras to increase our visibility for security.**

6. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

**The recommendation has not yet been implemented.**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and Union Hill School District do not have the authority or jurisdiction over School Resource officers to make decisions on the use and deployment of Resource Officers. However, collaboration and discussion between Union Hill School and District, and law enforcement on the most effective use and deployment of Resource Officers would be of value. Union Hill School District is willing to consider support and recommendations for best practices from Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and law enforcement agencies.**

8. Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.



David Curry, Superintendent

*A Tradition of Excellence Since 1868*

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**The recommendation has been implemented.**

**Union Hill School District works closely with Nevada County Superintendent of School and all of the above-mentioned agencies in an effort to develop model program resources based on best practices for safety. Union Hill currently has an outside assembly and accounting program. Input from law enforcement and fire services are sought prior to the establishment of assembly sites and accountability protocol and Union Hill School District would welcome the opportunity to collaborate in the future evaluation of these programs. In response to recent incidents nationwide, assembly locations have been reviewed.**

Thank you for your countywide safety assessment of our local schools. We continue to make changes based on "lessons learned" to assure the safety and security of our staff and students in Union Hill School District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David B. Curry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

David B. Curry  
Superintendent

TMA/OK

**NEVADA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**KEITH ROYAL**  
SHERIFF/CORONER  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

June 22, 2018

The Honorable Thomas M. Anderson  
Presiding Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report on the subject of Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools

Dear Honorable Judge Anderson:

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this report by the Grand Jury, published on May 9, 2018 regarding Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools. We would have preferred to be included in the actual investigation. Please see our response to recommendations 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8. Although not asked to respond to Recommendation 3, we would like to take the opportunity to share the following links that outline potential issues with the ALICE model that the Grand Jury is promoting.

<http://www.schoolsecurity.org/trends/alice-training/>

<https://www.fatherly.com/love-money/alice-training-grade-schools-shooters-gun/>

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools (NCSOS) should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school locations and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents, and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter..

This recommendation is clearly directed at the NCSOS. We will work to help develop a guide if requested by the NCSOS.

2. The NCSOS should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.

This recommendation is clearly directed at the NCSOS. We will work to help develop a workable plan if requested by NCSOS.

Grand Jury Response  
June 22, 2018

6. The NCSOS, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

This recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office currently has Resource Officers assigned to Nevada Union and Bear River High Schools. Our Resource Officers also spend time in our middle schools and respond upon request to our elementary schools. Whenever we have been approached by our local schools regarding Resource Officer positions we have been willing to collaborate. We will continue to collaborate regarding our School Resource Officer Program and would be interested in expanding the program dependent upon personnel and funding.

7. A working group of the NCSOS, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, the Grass Valley Police Department, the Nevada City Police Department, Nevada County Behavioral Health (especially concerning behavior of the assailant), and school administration and staff should be created to develop a model program for all schools to utilize when examining and creating their own outside assembly and accounting program.

This recommendation requires further analysis. If it is the consensus of the suggested participants that this group might be beneficial, we will be happy to participate. It is unclear what a model program for all schools might look like as far as an outside assembly and accounting program since there are so many variables in each school campus and population.

8. Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.

See response to prior recommendation. The Sheriff's Office will work with each of the schools in our jurisdiction to plan for safe and secure school evacuations.

The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the members of the 2017-2018 Grand Jury for their participation and effort in preparing their reports. We are committed to providing the highest level of safety and security to our community.

Sincerely,



Keith Royal  
Sheriff-Coroner





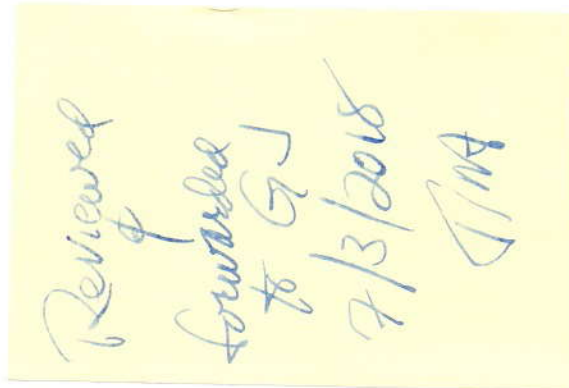
# City of Grass Valley Police Department

*"Dedication, Excellence and Partnerships"*

Alexander K. Gammelgard  
Chief of Police

June 27, 2018

The Honorable Tomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959



Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson,

The following is our response to the 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report – Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools. The safety of our schools is a critical topic and the Grand Jury’s interest in this matter is appreciated.

As you know, the Grand Jury conducted a safety assessment of our local schools which included interviews with selected school officials. Although, the Grass Valley Police Department was not formally contacted or interviewed by the Grand Jury during the course of their investigation, we certainly are an integral component of any safety plan related to area schools. As such, a response from our agency was requested related to five of the eight recommendations.

The following are our responses:

**Recommendation #1:**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents’ guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.**

**Reported Action:** The recommendation has been *implemented*.

In early June of 2018, the Grass Valley Police Department was consulted by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office about the development of a “parent’s guide” related to lockdown situations and other critical incidents. GVPD staff provided feedback and suggestions regarding the content of a generic “parent’s guide”.

**Recommendation #2:**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.**

**Reported Action:** The recommendation has been *implemented*.

In early June of 2018, Grass Valley Police Department staff, Nevada County Sheriff's Office staff, and Nevada County Superintendent of Schools personnel met to discuss the development of a plan to provide uniform templates to all area schools that could be disseminated via social media during emergencies and training exercises. Appropriate language for a variety of possible scenarios was discussed. The templates included general instructions and information and had space to add specifics depending on the location and event. The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office was then going to distribute these templates to area schools along with a plan for distribution method and timing.

**Recommendation #6:**

**The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.**

**Reported Action:** The recommendation has been *implemented* – as funding has allowed.

The presence of an SRO in schools is of incredible importance because of the safety it provides for the campus, but also the community policing aspect and long-term relationships it fosters between youth and law enforcement. When SROs are integrated into a school system, the benefits go beyond reduced violence in schools. The officer builds relationships with students and parents while serving as a resource to students, teachers, and administrators to help solve problems.

Over the past few years, the Police Department and the High School District have been looking for opportunities to reintroduce a School Resource Officer (SRO) program at the Park Avenue campus which is in the city limits. (Silver Springs High School & SAEL) In August of 2017, GVPD was able to assign an SRO to be on campus full-time during the school year through a shared funding agreement for the position. This funding structure and SRO assignment will continue into the future.

At this time, due to limited staffing and funding, GVPD is unable to provide a full-time SRO at the other school campuses within the city limits.

**Recommendation #7:**

A working group of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, the Grass Valley Police Department, the Nevada City Police Department, Nevada County Behavioral Health (especially concerning behavior of the assailant), and school administration and staff should be created to develop a model program for all schools to utilize when examining and creating their own outside assembly and accounting program.

**Reported Action:** The recommendation has *not yet been implemented*.

GVPD is willing and available to participate in a working group as described. However, a large collaborative working group as proposed could only develop a generic program that could offer general principles and

guidelines to follow when creating an outside assembly and accounting program. Ideally, each school site should develop their own plan that takes into consideration all variables for their specific campus. At various times over recent years, GVPD has worked with the schools within the city limits to develop these plans. Our SRO continues to work with the schools at the Park Avenue campus on critical incident planning including outside assembly and accounting programs. GVPD is always available to work with the other schools as well.

**Recommendation #8:**

**Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.**

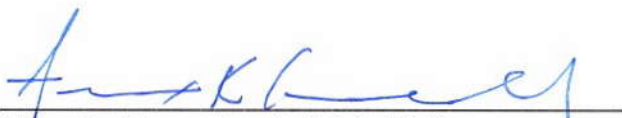
**Reported Action:** The recommendation has *not yet been implemented*.

GVPD is willing and available to work with Grass Valley schools to develop and assist them in incorporating site-specific procedures for a safe and secure school evacuation.

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This response was reviewed and approved by City Council at its June 26 meeting.

Sincerely,



Alexander Gammelgard - Chief of Police  
Grass Valley Police Department

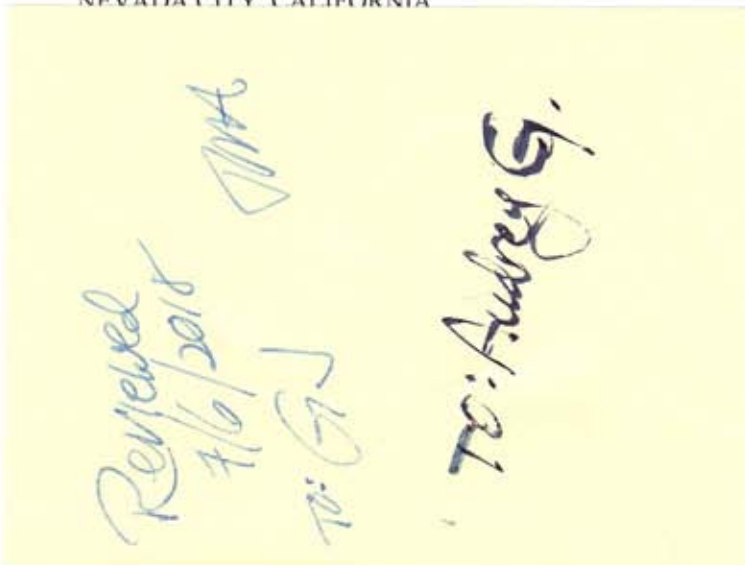




# NEVADA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA



July 6th, 2018

The Honorable Thomas Anderson  
Supervising Judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Honorable Thomas Anderson,

The following is the responses from the Nevada City Police Department to recommendations R1, R2, R6, R7 and R8 of the 2017-2018 Grand Jury Report "Safety and Security at Nevada County Schools."

The Nevada City Police Department has been working very close with allied law enforcement agencies and local schools on this topic as it is a continuing issue and requires great working relationships between everyone to truly be successful.

Below are the responses from the Nevada City Police Department.

Please let me know if you should have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

Lt. Chad Ellis

## **Recommendation #1:**

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students in the development of a highly summarized parents' guide on what to do and not to do when a lockdown or other emergency happens. This guide should contain uniform instructions that are generic to all schools. Additionally, each school should add instructions that are site specific to their school location and circumstances and distribute to teachers, parents and guardians, and high school students at the beginning of the year and each semester thereafter.

### **Reported Action:**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but has been discussed with the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools as well as with local schools and other law enforcement agencies. The Nevada City Police Department is available and willing to provide information and suggestions as to the content of a parent's guide. It is our belief that this would be a better way to keep parents informed and show the true extent that the schools and law enforcement are working together.

## **Recommendation #2:**

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools should coordinate with school districts, law enforcement, parents and guardians, and students to develop a uniform, workable plan that responds to the appropriate use of social media during actual emergencies and drill exercises.



# NEVADA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA



## Reported Action:

The Nevada City Police Department currently utilizes social media and has their own Facebook page where we would have the ability to disseminate information related to actual emergencies or training exercises. The Superintendent of Schools is in possession of templates that can be used as guidelines in disseminating information during such events. These templates were going to be distributed to local schools for review and input.

## Recommendation #6:

The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, school districts, and local law enforcement should collaborate on the use and deployment of Resource Officers that encompass all of our schools.

## Reported Action:

The Nevada City Police Department does not currently have a School Resource Officer on staff. This is due to both staffing levels and ultimately funding. NCPD officers work very close with our local schools and are expected to routinely stop by the schools as work load allows. NCPD has partnered with GVPD in the past and assisted with the Great Summer Youth Academy which has taken place at 7-Hills School in Nevada City. We have also implemented a "Community Connect" program where officers would spend the day at 7-Hills School playing sports games with the kids and getting to know them. The hope of the Nevada City Police Department for the future, should funding allow, is to employ a part time School Resource Officer to work in our local schools.

## Recommendation #7:

A working group of the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, the Nevada County Sheriff's Office, the Grass Valley Police Department, the Nevada City Police Department, Nevada County Behavioral Health (especially concerning behavior of the assailant), and school administration and staff should be created to develop a model program for all schools to utilize when examining and creating their own outside assembly and accounting program.

## Reported Action:

The Nevada City Police Department routinely attends the (CAUSSSS) Community Agencies United for Safe Schools and Safe Streets meetings in Grass Valley. This is a working group that is already in place and includes the majority of the agencies listed above. NCPD is always willing and able to participate in the working group. We will also need to collaborate with the local schools in each of our jurisdictions separately as the outside assemblies are site specific.

## Recommendation #8:

Following the creation of a model program for outside assembly and accounting, each school district should direct their schools to exercise this model and, in conjunction with local law enforcement, develop and incorporate the site-specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.

## Reported Action:

The Nevada City Police Department has not yet collaborated on a model program but is ready and willing to assist our local schools in developing site specific procedures necessary to conduct a safe and secure school evacuation.