



Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District

2490 Hilborn Road, Fairfield, CA 94534

(707) 399-5000 || www.fsusd.org

"Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District is a premier learning community that empowers each student to thrive in an ever changing world."

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Superintendent

July 11, 2019

The Honorable John B. Ellis
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Union Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Ellis,

Pursuant to Penal Code §933.05, Superintendent Kris Corey, Armijo High School Principal Sheila Smith, Fairfield High School Principal Will Cushman, and Rodriguez High School Principal Clarence Isadore, are providing the following response to the 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report entitled *School Safety*.

Finding 1: *Security cameras play a critical role in the safety at the three high schools by recording and monitoring student activity throughout the campus.*

The District agrees with the findings.

Recommendation 1: *Conduct annual evaluations to determine if more cameras or upgrades are needed to provide surveillance of all critical areas on campus.* The District agrees with this recommendation and has already implemented it. The school board has an annual allocation of funds to be used for safety and security. The District has prioritized these funds toward security cameras, installing new systems at all school sites over the last 4 years and annually evaluates these systems to make necessary adjustments.

Finding 2: *The mental health issue is a crisis that needs immediate attention. Schools currently have limited capacity to address these issues. Schools utilize their resources to employ more staff to increase academic results. School staff have seen their responsibilities shift away from the overall personal, social and emotional development of each student towards and academic focus, which creates a widening gap in support services like mental health.*

The District partially disagrees with the findings. While it is true that the mental health issue is a crisis that needs immediate attention, the District takes exception with the statement that school staff have seen their responsibilities shift away from the overall personal, social, and emotional development of each student towards an academic focus.

Recommendation 2: Assess and prioritize mental health issues on a continual basis to address the mental health needs of the students. Allocate resources to focus on mental health concerns. Provide staff training to promote a greater awareness of student mental health issues and techniques to address the problems that exist.

The District agrees with the recommendation and uses the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) as a tool to assess and prioritize mental health needs. The District has been steadily increasing mental health related staff and services for the past four years. At present, the District employs 9.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Clinicians and 30.15 FTE School Psychologists. This is an increase of 3.0 FTE School Psychologists from the year prior and 13 FTE increase in mental health related staff since 2015/16. For the 2019/20 school year, the District has budgeted \$4.6 million for clinical and psychological services.

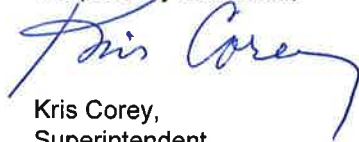
In addition to direct services provided by FSUSD staff, the District also contracts with the Solano County Office of Education to provide Social Emotional Groups at fourteen of the District's schools. During the 2019/20 school year, the District has budgeted \$210,000 for these increased services.

While the services described above support the children who need more intensive support, the District also recognizes the need to provide children with coping tools. Over the last two years, the District has expanded the use of InnerExploer, a program that focuses on developing practical techniques to handle difficult emotions such as stress, anxiety, and anger. The program is in each elementary school, is expanding to each middle school in 2019/20, and will expand to all high schools in 2020/21.

Finally, the District is in the process of setting up a partnership with Kaiser and Alliance for a Healthier Generation to participate in Resilience in School Environments (RISE) Initiative. The program empowers schools to create a safe and supporting environment focused on improving the social-emotional health of all students and staff. A significant component of this program is professional development for all staff, as well as site leadership teams, on strategies to implement and sustain healthier school environments. Two high schools plan on participating in the program during the 2019/20 school year.

Each year the District evaluates the needs and available resources to determine what additional steps are needed and what programs/services can be implemented. Mental health issues will continue to be an important focus of the District for years to come.

Respectfully submitted,



Kris Corey,
Superintendent



Sheila Smith,
Armijo High School Principal



Will Cushman,
Fairfield High School Principal



Clarence Isadore,
Rodriguez High School Principal