



YUBA CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

750 Palora Avenue, Yuba City, California 95991 (530) 822-5200 Fax: (530) 671-2454

July 14, 2020

8/10/20g

Superintendent
Doreen Osumi

Governing Board
Mary Buttacavoli
Sean Fetters
Brett Hancock
Julie Ann Jackson
Greg Quilty
Lonetta Riley
Sarbjit Takhar

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Sutter
1175 Civic Center Blvd.
Yuba City, California 95993

To the Honorable Presiding Judge:

RE: Yuba City Unified School District's Response to the Findings/Recommendations per Penal Code Section 933.05

The Yuba City Unified School District (YCUSD) Governing Board and Superintendent submit the following responses to the report, findings, and recommendations of the 2019-2020 Sutter County Grand Jury (SCGJ) on behalf of the District. Specifically, this responds to the report entitled Traffic Safety at Our Schools.

The District appreciates the time and energy invested by the (SCGJ) while visiting the following District sites and meeting with site administrators.

- Park Avenue Elementary School
- Riverbend Elementary School

SCGJ committee members interviewed school and district staff, parents, and the Yuba City police officer assigned as a school resource officer to the above schools. In addition, SCGJ reviewed several documents and observed drop-off and pick up times at both schools.

The SCGJ determined that parental behavior was the cause of the majority of the problems with pick up and drop off times. Findings with recommendations for YCUSD and the District responses are below:

FINDINGS: The District acknowledges all findings.

- F1. One designated pickup/drop off zone is insufficient for Riverbend's 1,000+ student population during peak volume times.
- F2. Riverbend and Park Avenue parents and students do not always comply with written pick up and drop off procedures.
- F3. No mid-block crosswalk on Steward Road in front of Riverbend, leads to pedestrian jaywalking.

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- F4. Drivers not following rules of the road create unsafe conditions.
- F5. Driver compliance increased when a peace officer was present.
- F6. Staff personnel did not address unsafe driver behavior.
- F7. There is no procedure in place for parents to report unsafe drivers.
- F8. School personnel did not wear identifying safety gear while guiding parents and students.
- F9. There was a significant lack of street signage and curb markings adjacent to schools.
- F10. Riverbend Elementary School had overgrown vegetation obscured driver and pedestrian vision that created safety issues.

SCGJ RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. YCUSD and the City of Yuba City work together to improve and expand pickup and drop off capability by December 2021.
- R2. School staff use multiple methods to educate Riverbend & Park Avenue parents and students in safe pick up and drop off areas/zones by the start of the 2020/2021 school year.
- R3. The educational staff design student programs to increase and promote traffic and pedestrian safety by the staff of the 2020/2021 school year.
- R4. A survey conducted to add a mid-block crosswalk on Stewart Road in front of Riverbend by December 2021.
- R5. Yuba City Police Department to increase periodic of a School Resource or Peace Officer as resources permit to deter unsafe behavior by drivers by start of 2020/2021 school year.
- R6. School staff to create a procedure for a concerned driver or parents to report serious traffic safety issues at the schools by December 31, 2020.
- R7. School staff to ensure all crossing guards, including school personnel, have adequate training and wear highly visible attire while monitoring pick up and drop off by start of 2020/2021 school year.
- R8. City of Yuba City to maintain curb painting and have clearly distinguished "No Parking" areas on the public streets adjacent to the schools by start of the 2020/2021 school year.
- R9. YCUSD to establish maintenance schedules for signage, curb and pavement markings and overgrown vegetation on school premises by the start of 2020/2021 school year.

YCUSD Response to F1/R1:

The responsibility of identifying pick up and drop off areas at Riverbend Elementary School is the responsibility of the District. District Office staff, the Director of Maintenance and Facilities, the Riverbend Principal, and the District's Resource Officer will work together to identify possible locations to expand the pick-up and drop off locations at Riverbend Elementary School by December 2020. This date may need to be adjusted due to the fact that all YCUSD schools are reopening through a Distance Learning model for the 2020-2021 school year, due to orders from the Governor and the California Department of Public Health related to COVID-19,

YCUSD Response to F2/R2:

Once school resumes to in-person learning, Park Avenue and Riverbend principals will communicate and educate parents on safe pick-up and drop-off procedures through, email, video-messaging, and auto-dialer. Students will be educated on safety protocols for pick-up and drop-off through their classroom teachers and site administrators.

YCUSD Response to F3/R3:

Educational staff will research safety programs to be implemented by the staff, that promote traffic and pedestrian safety. These programs will be implemented upon the return of students to the campus.

YCUSD Response to F4/R4:

YCUSD does not have the authority to place crosswalks on city/county roads. However, the District will work with the City of Yuba City to determine the feasibility of a mid-block crosswalk on Stewart Road in front of Riverbend by December 2020.

YCUSD Response to F5/R5:

YCUSD will request that the District Resource Officer periodically, as time allows, observe pick-up and drop-off times at Riverbend and Park Avenue, as a means to deter unsafe behaviors. In addition YCUSD will request from the City of Yuba City and the Yuba City Police Department to increase periodic patrol, by a Yuba City Peace Officer, to observe pick-up and drop-off at Riverbend and Park Avenue, as resources permit, to deter unsafe behavior by drivers upon the return of students on campus for the 2020/2021 school year.

YCUSD Response to F6/R6:

District office and school administration will work together to develop a means by which concerned parents/individuals can report serious traffic safety issues at the schools by December 31, 2020.

YCUSD Response to F7/R7:

YCUSD District Office staff will develop a district-wide safety training for all crossing guards and school personnel, regarding traffic safety. In addition, "safety vests" will be provided to all crossing guards as well as hand-held stop signs prior to the return of students to campus during the 2020/2021 school year.

YCUSD Response to F8/R8:

YCUSD will work with the City of Yuba City to ensure that curb painting and clearly distinguished "No Parking" areas are maintained on the public streets adjacent to the schools upon the return of students on campus for the 2020/2021 school year.

YCUSD Response to F9/R9:

The YCUSD Maintenance Department has established a maintenance schedule for signage, curb and pavement markings and overgrown vegetation on school premises.

YCUSD Response to F10:

As soon as the District was notified of the concerns regarding the overgrown vegetation at Riverbend Elementary School, YCUSD maintenance department immediately cut down all vegetation obscuring driver and pedestrian vision.

Respectfully Submitted,



Doreen Osumi
Superintendent

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COUNTY OF BUTTE