



Soulsbyville Elementary School
20300 Soulsbyville Road
Soulsbyville, CA 95372
(209) 532-1419
District Fax: (209) 532-4371
School Fax: (209) 533-2922
Established 1865

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Dena Canaday
Sarah Garcia
Christopher Lockhart
Nadiia Solo
Heather Spangler

SUPERINTENDENT
Jeff Winfield

August 10, 2023

To the County of Tuolumne Grand Jury,
Regarding: Tuolumne County School Safety Report dated June 30, 2023

From the Governing Board of Soulsbyville School,
Required responses to Grand Jury report findings and recommendations

Findings:

F9.1: Like most of the schools in the county, Soulsbyville has both in-house ALICE training and assistance by local law enforcement. Full time teachers receive safety training, but substitutes must rely on safety plans in the classroom. They do have cameras and 65% fencing which includes athletic fields and play area.

Response: This finding is not disputed by the District.

F9.2: There is not much foot traffic from the surrounding neighborhoods, but all people entering the campus are challenged by any staff members if they do not check into the office. The only crosswalk is situated in a bad place and has bushes blocking the view of both pedestrian and oncoming traffic. The Head Start program is closest to the cross walk. The lack of a crossing guard presents a problem for both pedestrians and traffic.

Response: Soulsbyville School has worked with the county road department in the past to help address the location and improvements to a crossing for pedestrians onto the Soulsbyville campus. The current location is an appropriate location. A crossing guard may help improve safety for both pedestrians and traffic.

F9.3: The ratio of teachers to students at recess is 1:35; on field trips it is 1:10. During hosted school events staff and parents are used as security. After a lock down the students must have their parents come to get them released. Students can contact an adult or use the drop box to report safety concerns.

Response: The District practices various safety drills of which "lock down" is one of those drills. It is not accurate to state that students must have their parents come to get them released. This is true for both a practice drill and any real lock down event. Depending on the type of lock down, parents may be requested to pick up their students who would be released by staff.

Implemented Recommendations:

R9.1 Staff should maintain and follow up in ALICE training for both students and staff, and involvement with local law enforcement is optimal. Staff should also continue to update and review safety plans if possible.

Response: The District will implement this recommendation by continuing to train staff leaders, teachers, and support staff in ALICE protocols to include updating and reviewing current safety plans.

R9.3 Soulsbyville Elementary school should continue to uphold a high standard in considering their student to adult ratio. Soulsbyville should be commended for having much supervision and small rations for students at recess.

Response: The District will implement this recommendation by continuing a high student to adult ratio in all programs whenever possible.

Requires Further Analysis Recommendations:

R9.2 Updates to foot path and traffic flow would be optimal, but given geographic location, this provides many challenges. The blind spot where the cross walk is located should be evaluated.

Response: The District is in support of this recommendation. The Superintendent has been directed to reach out to the Tuolumne County Road Department to coordinate a discovery meeting to address the foot path along Soulsbyville Road, the location and type of crosswalk, and any updating or other safety considerations for both pedestrians and traffic. As a next step, information from the discovery meeting will be shared with the Board for possible action to move forward with supporting improvements relating to this recommendation.

Jeff Winfield
District Superintendent

Rec'd 9-7-23

Written; Aug 10, 2023

From; Soulsbyville Schl. dist. Board

Toulame Co. School Safety Report

Requesting reading report and follow up.

~~Schools & Libraries~~ ^{al}

Response committee



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July 10, 2023

Re: Grand Jury Report "Tuolumne County School Safety - June 30, 2023"

The Grand Jury's report accurately describes the current reality facing schools in maintaining a safe environment for students and staff. It further articulates the ongoing efforts of local schools to meet this challenge and ensure that all Tuolumne County children have a safe place to receive a high-quality education. I commend the Grand Jury on their thorough and thoughtful report.

First, there is a general recommendation in the report that County schools coordinate safety planning to streamline school safety plans for law enforcement and first responders. Local school administrators share this goal, and with this in mind, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools has already hosted school safety meetings between first responders and school officials to discuss centralizing information, using common terminology in emergency situations, and receiving feedback on current procedures and protocols. I am certain that we will continue to have these important conversations in the upcoming school year and beyond.

There are also three recommendations specifically for Soulsbyville School within the report. The first recommendation is that staff maintain and continue to follow up with ALICE training. To this end, I will soon be joining a group of other school administrators in a two-day ALICE Instructor Training hosted by the Sonora Police Department, which will allow us to continually train both staff and students in ALICE protocols. Second, the report recommends investigating changes to foot path, traffic flow, and a crosswalk on Soulsbyville Road. We are aware of the crosswalk in question and would welcome any efforts by the County to improve pedestrian and vehicle traffic safety on Soulsbyville Road. Finally, the report recommends the continuation of active supervision and low student to adult ratios, which the district is committed to maintaining.

We are grateful for the reports' findings and recommendations and will continue to make the safety of our students, staff, and community our first priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Lindsley".

Mary Lindsley, Principal