

November 10, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members,

The safety of our students and staff is our number one priority. Several events involving weapons occurred during the month of September on or near San Leandro High School, prompting the District to hold a Community Forum and a Student Forum. Following the forums, we held several meetings with parents and police representation and convened a task force with students, staff and Board representation to consider the issues brought up during the forum. While many of the actions listed below were things we were already working on with our school climate committee, some of them are the direct result of this work. I wanted to provide the community with an update on action steps we are taking.

Increased Adult Supervision:

- The San Leandro Police Department has added a third School Resource Officer to provide assistance and support
- Hired another campus supervisor effective immediately
- Increased administrative supervision at 136th and Bancroft Avenue before and after school
- Hiring additional lunch line supervisors and purchased stanchions to help manage the cafeteria lines and expedite the serving of meals to students (using restricted, cafeteria funds)

Procedural Changes:

- Implemented lunch time detention and loss of social privileges for students who violate school rules
- Installing additional cameras
- Purchased better radios to improve communication between the two campuses and among security and administrative staff
- Staff completed their work with outside consultant Performance Fact, Inc. to ensure consistent discipline parameters and effective consequences
- Implementing an anonymous texting hotline (currently working with police department)
- Implementing student Identification Badges for all students
- Improving the school's positive reward system

Programs to Address the Social and Emotional Needs of Students:

- Implemented a new off-campus instructional program located at the Lincoln Alternative Education Center to address the challenges of our most needy students
- Added two parent liaisons (now we have three) who work with families to provide support for their students and provide parent training (using violence prevention grant money)
- Hired a gang prevention parent liaison to work with students and families
- Hired two mental health professionals to conduct a needs assessment and work with students and families to provide services (using funds provided by County of Alameda)

- Currently working on writing a Community-based Health Center grant

Additional action steps being worked on include:

- Limiting the entrances to the school (assessment is scheduled for end of month)
- Meeting with local businesses to develop a partnership to support students being in class on time, every day
- Exploring a Student Court Program
- Bringing in experts to provide parent and staff information regarding: signs of drug use, signs of gang affiliation, intervention parents can take
- Implementing mentoring programs

At this point in time we are not planning to use metal detectors, drug sniffing dogs, nor will we eliminate the use of student backpacks.

Last year, the District implemented a Tiered Instructional Intervention System which is a systematic hierarchy of academic interventions and support services designed to meet the educational needs of our students. We are already seeing the positive impact of the program. This year, we are focusing on developing a Tiered Behavior Intervention System to systematically address the social and emotional needs of our students and expect to see similar positive outcomes.

I want to emphasize that the vast majority of our students come to school on time, attend class, complete their homework, participate in clubs, sports, drama, music, and contribute daily to making San Leandro High School the great school that it is! In fact, just last week, our *Season of Service Period of Peace Program* received the **National Promising Programs Award**, of which we are very proud. But we will continue to work collaboratively with students, parents, staff and the police department to address and improve school safety and climate.

Sincerely,

Cindy M. Cathey
Superintendent