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February 5, 2016

Ocean Beach School District Parents and Guardians,

I want to thank all of our Long Beach staff, students, parents, and emergency response agencies for the way they handled the latest lockdown at Long Beach Elementary. This is not something I ever want our kids to experience, and I am saddened when this type of situation occurs. For those that may not know, there was a call that came in to LBE office of a threatening nature. The building went into immediate lockdown and notified law enforcement. They responded within minutes and the building was secured while they investigated the threat. We were able to confirm that several other schools had received similar calls around the same time. Of course, there are always areas in which we can improve and will, but I was very proud of our staff for all they did to keep kids calm and safe.

I met with three parents who were concerned that that we did not have more security systems in place at Long Beach Elementary. While I understand this concern, Long Beach Elementary is not the only building that would benefit from additional security. As I explained to the parents during the meeting, we began researching systems last spring and received estimates for basic buzz-in/camera entry systems; however, even simple systems were much more costly than we had anticipated. It became apparent that doing all buildings at one time would not be possible. Trying to determine which building to start with then becomes a struggle. As I indicated to the parents, although this is a huge impact to the budget, the district does intend to find the money (\$30,000 to \$140,000 building dependent) to purchase basic systems, but we must phase the systems in for budgetary reasons. I also indicated that I have been working to locate grants that may help us do this with less impact to the budget. I want to be clear, the District in no way indicated that we wouldn't or couldn't spend the money, nor did we ask for donations. I explained that often it may mean cuts to other areas, but overall if we are able to receive grant funding and stagger the purchases, we feel confident we can manage the project. I believe we all agree that this is a District responsibility and not a fundraising responsibility. I was asked if I was saying that these parents couldn't raise money and I indicated that the district would always accept donations. I believe I also made it clear that any fundraising was for additional security beyond what the District would be purchasing.

In addition, I worked with a company this past summer to purchase steel door barriers for all classroom and gymnasium doors. The barriers come highly recommended and will ensure that an intruder can't get in the classroom for a very long time. Our maintenance department is scheduled to begin installing these over the next several months.

Please know that I am extremely appreciative of the amazing spirit of giving in this community, but in this situation, it is something that we can and will work into our budget and access grant opportunities for funding.

Thank you all for your support. We are so fortunate to live in a community that values their schools. I am always available to answer questions, so please don't hesitate to contact me. Email is usually the quickest way for me to respond: [jenny.risner@oceanbeachschools.org](mailto:jenny.risner@oceanbeachschools.org) but I am happy to talk by phone or schedule time to meet in person. 360.642.3739

*Jenny Risner*, Superintendent

“Preparing students to live successful lives as stewards of their world.”