January 29, 2016

Dear Elk Grove Unified School District Community,

In light of recent events which have occurred in and around the Franklin High community, I am writing to provide you with a summary of three incidents, share information regarding the District’s crisis response efforts and relay to you the outcome of an investigation into a threat posted on social media. As incidents of this kind can occur anywhere in our district, I want to assure you that we work very closely with local law enforcement and all share the same priority of keeping our kids and staff safe.

On Wednesday afternoon, January 27, 2016, a robbery took place at the corner of McLean Drive and Franklin High Road across from Toby Johnson Middle School. The victim was a Toby Johnson Middle School student who was held up at gunpoint. School officials immediately contacted law enforcement who arrived quickly to assist and attempt to apprehend the suspects. The student was not harmed, but was shaken by the incident. The suspects were described as three Hispanic males, one of whom may have been armed. The suspects remain at large and the Elk Grove Police Department and Elk Grove Unified School District Police Services are still actively investigating.

Yesterday afternoon at dismissal time, the Elk Grove Police Department (EGPD) issued a lockdown for five of our schools located in proximity to police activity involving a shooting and vehicle pursuit. No students were harmed or threatened and within 30 minutes, an “All Clear” was issued by EGPD and all school lockdowns were lifted. According to recent reports, four arrests of adults have been made in this incident. Officers determined the shooting was not random.

Whenever a lockdown is issued by law enforcement, the District’s response will depend on the situation. A school’s first priority is to ensure that students and staff are sheltered in a secure location. In this situation, the school administrative staff was charged with immediately securing all students just after the dismissal bell rang. Once students were secured, a letter to parents was posted through each affected school’s School Loop portal to inform parents that a lockdown order had been issued. In such situations, we use multiple ways of communicating to parents about incidents that affect our campuses. These include e-mail, printed letters, School Loop messages, autodialer calls and the media. Depending on the situation, we will use one or more of these methods. I thank the families, students and staff for remaining calm and orderly during the lockdown, especially because it occurred at dismissal time.

Following the lockdown event, just after 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, we advised the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department of a possible social media threat from a student who attends Franklin High School in Elk Grove. Several calls from concerned parents reported the social media post of the student pictured wearing a ski mask and holding what appeared to be an assault rifle. Law Enforcement was further advised that the student had warned others not to come to school today (January 29, 2016). The Elk Grove Unified School District Police Services asked the Sheriff’s Department to investigate the credibility of the threat.
Sheriff’s deputies worked quickly to identify the 16 year old student who made the social media threat. He was located at his residence and was arrested without incident for criminal threats by means of an electronic communication device. He was booked into Sacramento County Juvenile Hall.

Further investigation by deputies led to identification of a second subject who was located at his residence and in possession of the assault rifle pictured in the social media post. With assistance from officers of the Elk Grove Police Department, deputies located and arrested Jonathan Huynh, 19, of Elk Grove for possession of an illegal assault rifle. He was booked at the Sacramento County Jail.

The immediate reporting from our community of these kinds of threats, along with our district’s immediate response working collaboration with law enforcement are key elements to keeping our schools and community safe. These kinds of threats are taken very seriously and investigated fully.

We thank our District’s Police Services Department, the Elk Grove Police Department and the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department for their swift action in addressing each of these events. We also thank our students, parents, and community members who alerted us to these situations. It is this type of vigilance and community connection that helps to keep our schools, students, and employees safe.

Sincerely,

Christopher R. Hoffman
Superintendent

Re: Translations

Translations of this letter are available in Spanish, Hmong and Vietnamese on your school website and the EGUSD newsroom website.

Daim ntawm no muab txhais ua lus Mev, Hmoob, thiab Nyablaj nyob hauv koj lub tsev kawm ntawv lub website thiab muaj nyob rau hauv EGUSD newsroom website.

La traducción de esta carta está disponible en español, hmong, y vietnamés en el sitio electrónico de su escuela y en la página electrónica del EGUSD.

Các bản dịch của lá thư này đã có sẵn bằng tiếng Tây bang Nha, Hmong, và tiếng Việt trên mạng của trường và trên mạng của phòng tin tức Học Khu EGUSD.