



PLACERVILLE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

1032 THOMPSON WAY
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667

NANCY LYNCH, Ed.D.
Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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February 3, 2011

Words cannot express our devastation as a result of the tragic event that happened yesterday. Sam LaCara has been an important member of our community for the past 21 years.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families Sam LaCara and John Luebbers. We have received an outpouring of support from people throughout our community and across the state. Sam was an active member in the Association of California School Administrators, and so this loss is felt beyond our county.

The staff of Louisiana Schnell school followed the procedures and protocols that are in place and practiced regularly. Sam would be proud that everyone stayed calm and followed those procedures. The students never felt that they were in any danger, and did not know what happened until they were reunited and told by parents.

Mixed messages about where students would be released were confusing to parents and was made more difficult by the phone systems being jammed by all of the incoming calls. The most up to date information was delayed because of this. However, at all times the safety of children and staff, along with protecting the integrity of the crime scene, was the utmost priority and all entities ensured that this occurred.

Today we met with all District staff in order to come together to begin to process the events of yesterday and find our way to healing.

Psychologists and counselors from El Dorado County Mental Health, El Dorado County Office of education, local school districts, and many community based organizations, such as New Morning, Family Connections,

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Victims Assistance, Faith Based organizations such as Cold Springs and Federated Churches, and others mobilized their staff to help us through the process today.

Later today I will be sending a voice message home to parents to welcome them back to school tomorrow. We recognize that some parents and students may be anxious so we want them to know that we will have many psychologists and counselors at Louisiana Schnell as well as our two other district schools to provide support for students, staff and parents. Teachers have been provided with materials to help support the students to help them process what has happened. Counselors will be in each classroom at Schnell School to work with our teachers. We will continue to have counselors available to work with students, staff and parents all next week.

We have had a number of retired teachers and principal from Schnell School offer their support and we are also pleased that retired Superintendent, Ralph Friend has agreed to serve as an interim principal at Schnell School.

We are grateful for the support we have received from the entire community. Again our thoughts and prayers go out to the LaCara family. We would continue to ask the media to be respectful of the request for privacy from the family and ask that the media also continue to respect the children, staff and families that are dealing with this loss and not come onto campus – but rather stay in the lower parking lot area that will be designated for media. We would also ask that you are mindful that we want to have a welcoming and safe environment for students when they return to school tomorrow.

Contact Information:

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