

2023-24 Tuolumne County Grand Jury Communication/Complaint Summary

Date Received:

9-28-23

Date Communication/Complaint Written:

8-01-23

Name of Correspondent/Complainant:

Michael Merrill, Superintendent, Summerville UHSD  
Trustees, Summerville UHSD

Regarding:

Tuolumne County School Safety Report of June 30, 2023

Requesting:

Response

#2 1993

# Summerville Union High School District

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**Superintendent** Michael Merrill

**Board of Education** \* David Atkins \* Jake Hurst \* Andrea Ransom \* Randy Richter \* Dennis Spisak

To the County of Tuolumne Grand Jury,  
RE: Tuolumne County School Safety Report June 30, 2023  
Summerville Union High School District  
August 1, 2023

The Summerville Union High School District Board is appreciative of your point of view in the report. School Safety is very important to us. Annually, we revise our safety plan and involve our staff and students in trainings to be sure that we all know what to do in the case of an actual emergency.

## **Findings, Recommendations and Responses**

F11.1: Summerville High School has implemented ALICE training and engages with law enforcement for planning and preparedness.

R11.1: Continue to engage with local law enforcement to practice and review the ALICE training.

Response: Summerville Union High School District will continue with the existing ALICE training protocol.

F11.2: The safety plan at Summerville High School is not only accessible but also continually updated.

R11.2: Ensure that all substitute teachers receive the same level of safety training as full-time staff. Look into providing them with the access to the online training and certification that full-time staff members receive.

Response: Summerville High will work with TCSOS to determine the best way to incorporate substitute teacher training since they may work for all of our county schools.

F11.3: The campus is partially fenced, and access control is not absolute, as individuals can walk in unchallenged.

R11.3: Consider implementing additional access control measures, such as secured entrances or more comprehensive check-in procedures for visitors. Additionally, consider increasing the fence perimeter around the campus and extend camera coverage to the tennis courts and softball field, which currently lack surveillance.

Response: Summerville High has hired an additional campus supervisor and will continue discussions around fencing and security camera system upgrades.

F11.4: Most classrooms are equipped for lockdowns with emergency supplies, though not all have food and water.

**Serving the communities of:** Cold Springs, Long Barn, Mi-Wuk Village, Pinecrest, Sierra Village  
Strawberry, Sugar Pine, Tuolumne, Twain Harte

R11.4: Ensure that all classrooms are fully equipped for lockdown situations, including the provision of food and water in the safety buckets.

Response: Summerville High will assess the safety and security needs for each classroom.

F11.5: The school employs practices to prevent weapons on campus, such as monitoring break times and behaviors as well as utilizing surprise drug dog visits. They also distribute a classroom discipline policy that outlines the consequences of bringing weapons to school.

R11.5: Reinstate surprise drug dog visits and continually enforce the classroom discipline policy. Consider additional preventative measures such as metal detectors or increased supervision in areas where students may potentially conceal weapons.

Response: Summerville High has hired an additional campus supervisor to monitor the campus. Consistency of implementation of the discipline policy is important for a safe and calm learning environment.

F11.6: The ratio of students to adults during recess and breaks is between 30 and 35 to 1.

R11.6: Consider hiring additional staff members to reduce the student-to-adult ratio during recess and breaks. This would also improve supervision during after-hour events.

Response: Summerville High has hired an additional campus supervisor that can be used for during school as well as after school events.

F11.7: Students are encouraged to report safety concerns to any staff member, reinforcing the message "if you see something, say something".

R11.7: Create a formalized method for students to report safety concerns, such as a confidential online portal or designated staff members.

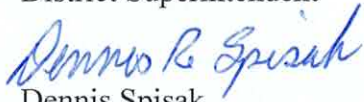
Response: Summerville is looking into implementing the STOPit confidential online reporting system this year. Additionally, staff will continue discussions with students about the importance of reaching out to any staff member when they see something to say something.

Thank you for the insight you have shared. Summerville takes great pride in our students, staff and providing a safe and secure learning environment.

Sincerely,



Michael Merrill  
District Superintendent



Dennis Spisak  
Board Clerk

~~Andrea Ransom  
Board Member~~



Dave Atkins  
Board President



Jake Hurst  
Board Member



Randy Richter  
Board Member