



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

Mr. Trevor Tucker, Chairman
Flagler District Schools
Bunnell, FL
VIA EMAIL

RE: Summer School Programs – Lack of On-Campus Security

Dear Chairman Tucker:

It has been brought to my attention that Flagler District Schools are holding summer classes without either a School Resource Deputy or an armed Guardian as defined by Florida law. My staff confirmed the District's decision declining to use School Resource Deputy's in an email exchange with Mr. Thomas Wooleyhan, District School Safety Specialist. In light of the recent tragedy in Uvalde, Texas I find this to be an astonishing decision to save a few thousand dollars.

The School District is responsible for establishing policies for safe-school officer assignments outside of the regular school day, including before and after school, summer school, extracurricular activities, and for school-sponsored events. However, the District's unilateral decision, made without the benefit of the expertise provided by the Sheriff's Office is short-sighted. The lack of an immediate law enforcement response creates an unnecessary risk to both your staff and the students attending summer school programs. Last year the District agreed to use and pay for School Resource Deputy's at the summer school program. This was a prudent and proper decision then and should have been this year too.

As such, I have ordered School Resource Deputy's to immediately staff any school being used for summer classes for the duration of these classes. I will not allow the District staff to make a decision that could compromise the security and safety of students. Seconds matter in active shooter incidents, which can happen anywhere and at any time. The School District will be invoiced for all costs associated with this staffing. I have also directed Chief of Staff Strobridge to ensure summer school classes are included in next year's contract to address these concerns or I will not sign the contract.

Sincerely,


RICK STALY
Sheriff

C: District 3 School Board Vice Chair Colleen Conklin
District 5 School Board Member Cheryl Massaro
District 2 School Board Member Janet McDonald
District 1 School Board Member Jill Woolbright
Superintendent Cathy Mittelstadt

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