

San Dieguito

Union High School District

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February 23, 2016

Board of Trustees
San Dieguito Union High School District
710 Encinitas Blvd.
Encinitas, CA 92024

Honorable Trustees:

In January 2016, a young woman, _____, contacted San Diego police alleging she was molested by Marc Sandknop, a certificate employee of San Dieguito Union High School District, while she was a student at La Costa Canyon High School. _____ alleges the sexual abuse began in approximately 2007 or 2008 while she attended La Costa Canyon. She is now _____ years old and lives _____. The police informed the District of these allegations in January 2016 and requested the District's cooperation in not taking any action until the investigation concluded. Last week, Mr. Sandknop admitted to the police he had a relationship with Ms. I _____, but due to the statute of limitations the District Attorney has decided not to pursue criminal charges.

By way of background, Mr. Sandknop has worked for the District since 1993, first at San Dieguito High School, then at La Costa Canyon High School and now at Carmel Valley Middle School. At La Costa Canyon High School, Mr. Sandknop worked as both a teacher and the girl's tennis coach. Based on an initial review of Mr. Sandknop's file, there were no complaints of inappropriate conduct with students until 2005, when an unidentified woman called to inform the District Mr. Sandknop had molested a child in her family and was seen with at the movie theater with a graduate of La Costa Canyon High School. The woman was later identified as I _____. The woman either could not or would not name any students, but due to the District's role as a mandatory reporter, three CPS reports were filed in response to this information.

In 2010, the District again received complaints regarding Mr. Sandknop's behavior, this time involving Ms. _____. Both Ms. _____ and Mr. Sandknop were interviewed and both denied that anything inappropriate had occurred or was occurring between them. Associate Superintendent Terry King met with Mr. Sandknop to discuss the allegations, however, the complaints could not be substantiated. The La Costa Canyon assistant principal at that time, Bjorn Paige, issued Mr. Sandknop a written warning on October 27, 2010. There were no additional complaints made about Mr. Sandknop after 2010.

Now that the police have concluded their investigation, the District will handle the matter internally. On February 19, 2016, Mr. Sanknop was placed on paid administrative leave pending investigation. We have contacted counsel and spoken to Ms. . We will be initiating a thorough investigation into her allegations and possible other instances of molestation and sexual abuse by Mr. Sandknop. Due to the ongoing investigation and the sensitive nature of these allegations, we ask that this information not be shared publicly. Any statements made about Mr. Sandknop and/or the allegations may open the District to liability for defamation. Ms. has not stated whether she intends to pursue a lawsuit against Mr. Sandknop and/or the District, but the District should be prepared if and when that happens. The District should also be prepared for additional allegations of abuse and molestation by Mr. Sandknop, as Ms. i may not be Mr. Sandknop's only victim.

Respectfully Submitted,



Torrie Norton
Associate Superintendent
Human Resources

cc: Executive Cabinet
Carmel Valley Principal – Cara Dolnik

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