

City Council Chambers
29844 Haun Road
Menifee, CA 92586



City of Menifee
School Districts Committee
Meeting Minutes

Lesa Sobek, Committee Member
Bob Karwin, Committee Member

Thursday, October 27, 2022
3:00 PM Regular Meeting

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM.

2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

City Manager Armando G. Villa welcomed the Committee and provided an overview of the meeting purpose. City staff and School District representatives introduced themselves.

City staff present: Nick Fidler Public Works Director, Edward Varso Police Chief, Lonny Olson Fire Chief, Cheryl Kitzerow Community Development Director, Gina Gonzalez Economic Development Director, Stephanie Roseen Acting City Clerk, Philip Southard Public Information and Legislative Affairs Officer, Rebekah Kramer Assistant to the City Manager, and Mandy Stephens Management Analyst.

School representatives present:

Menifee Union School District: Dr. Jennifer Root Superintendent, Josué Reyna Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Chad McGough Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services, Bob O'Donnell Board Member, Xavier Padilla Board Member, and Jackie Johansen Board Member.

Mt. San Jacinto College: Dave Paseman Director of Campus Safety, Marc Donnhauser Dean of Math and Science, and Dr. Jeremy Brown Vice President of Instruction.

Perris Union High School District: Robert Brough Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services.

Romoland School District: Trevor Painton Superintendent

Santa Rosa Academy: Dr. Robert Hennings Executive Director, Andrea Pasolini Director of Communications and Community Relations, and Eric Russell Board Member

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Reina Jackson spoke on concerns regarding street racing in the City and public safety.

4. MINUTES

The following minutes were approved with no modifications.

4.1 Minutes of the September 16, 2021, Education Summit meeting.

5. DISCUSSION/ROUNDTABLE – COMMON SAFETY MEASURES IMPACTING THE CITY AND SCHOOLS

5.1 City Representatives

Mr. Villa provided an overview on growth and development occurring within the City including several new housing developments: Cimarron Ridge, Legado, and Rockport Ranch.

Public Works Director Nick Fidler provided an update on the street maintenance improvements taking place throughout the city to support safe routes to school including roadway striping, cross walk and bike lane designations, and signage (no parking, stop signs, school zones, pedestrian crossing warnings). The capital road and traffic signal improvements taking place near schools located within the city were also highlighted.

Menifee Police Chief Ed Varso provided an update on the Police Department's efforts to improve public safety in the city, including the deployment of School Resource Officers (SRO), traffic enforcement and responses to social media and electronic communication challenges include school threats, cyberbullying, and cybercrimes.

Menifee Fire Chief Lonny Olson provided an overview of the Department's plan to enhance fire protection services, the expansion of fire stations, and safety training programs including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and first aid courses available to schools and the broader community.

5.2 School Representatives

Menifee Union School District representatives discussed concerns regarding safe pedestrian routes to schools; traffic signal light needs at the intersections (including Garbani Road and Menifee Road which is under construction); online threats and collaboration with the Police Department; homelessness; communication messaging between the District, City, and the community when an incident or school lockdown occurs; and a request for an update on the Normandy Road sidewalk. Mr. Fidler provided an update and said the project will be under construction by Summer 2023.

District representatives also discussed the importance of school resource officers; crossing guards; incorporation of safety education in the schools; Liberty High School's EMT and law programs; and Murrieta Road expansion.

Mt. San Jacinto College representatives discussed safety measures the college had put in place such as the addition of monitoring cameras that has helped mitigate some safety concerns and the incorporation of Riverside Sheriff Officer patrols on campus day and night. The college representatives discussed enhancing access controls at the campus; hiring of instructional aids and supervisors to train on lab safety; expansion of the EMS, paramedic, and fire safety programs. Mr. Fidler reported the traffic signal on Antelope Road at the college's entrance would begin construction in early 2023.

Perris Union High School District representatives discussed their concerns regarding the increase in drug use; learning trends seen from the transition back from COVID restrictions and remote learning; increased school threats; and more students asking for mental health services. Representatives discussed the

implementation of a wellness program, social workers, and the need for additional counselors to address the increased volume of students in high schools and middle schools.

Romoland School District representatives stated the issues discussed are seen statewide, not just locally, and reflected how society affects students and schools. The representatives discussed the importance of City and District collaboration for school traffic, educating parents on safe social media practices; the opportunity to increase crossing guards and school resource officers; and concerns of the creation of parks in proximity to schools.

Santa Rosa Academy representatives stated they had an increase in mental health support services (including adding more counselors from 1.5 staff to four full-time staff). They are also providing CPR certification as part of the physical education classes; and have installed sensors in bathrooms to alert staff when students are in distress or if vaping smoke is detected.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

Committee Member Sobek thanked everyone in attendance and asked for the school district representatives to evaluate their top three to five safety-related priorities they would like to address in collaboration with the City. The information received will be shared with the Mayor and City Council and used as part of the City's strategic planning process.

Committee Member Karwin highlighted the City's Citizens Academy and recommended consideration be given to having a similar type of program geared to youth added to the school curriculum to enhance civic engagement.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.



Stephanie Roseen, Assistant City Clerk