



FROM: Robert Guillen, Superintendent

For Immediate Release

Banning, CA – Law enforcement officials from the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department have notified the Banning Unified School District and its Governing Board that one of the district’s employees, Charles Mayer, the Dean of Students at Nicolet Middle School, has been arrested in connection with a wide-ranging, multi-jurisdictional investigation of sex crimes involving minors. Upon receiving the notice from law enforcement, the Mayer was immediately placed on unpaid administrative leave and is prohibited from entering onto any district facility or school site pending the outcome of the law enforcement investigation. The Banning Unified School District is fully cooperating with law enforcement as it investigates and continues to gather evidence regarding this employee. Mayer was caught in a sting operation attempting to engage in lewd acts with a minor. No other district employees have been arrested or have been implicated or are under investigation. At this time, it is believed the acts of this individual did not involve the district or its students. Anyone with additional information is encouraged to contact Detective Donald Patton at the Detective Division of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department at 909-477-2800.

The Banning Unified School District takes allegations of sexual misconduct very seriously. In a situation such as this, the District and administration immediately responds and works closely with law enforcement to investigate. When allegations of sexual misconduct arise, the employee is immediately placed on administrative leave or otherwise removed from having contact with District students pending the results of the investigation. In most cases, law enforcement leads the communication efforts to the public to avoid jeopardizing an investigation. Based on direction from law enforcement, the District then notifies the parent community about any incident involving its students and provides an opportunity for parents/guardians to contact the district with inquiries. In cases where criminal charges and/or an arrest is made, the District works with law enforcement to communicate the information to the public and to the parent community.

It is extremely important for students, staff, and parents to be vigilant at all times and that “If they SEE something or KNOW something, to SAY something.” The District and law enforcement agencies need concerned individuals to come forward with any information they may have about alleged or potential criminal activity. While the District undeniably prefers that one of its

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employees had not been arrested for alleged sex crimes, the District is grateful that it was notified by law enforcement so it could place the employee on leave. The District will continue to foster an environment where students and staff feel comfortable coming forward and reporting inappropriate conduct.

At this time, due to the ongoing investigation, no further details can be provided. As additional information becomes available, and at the direction of law enforcement, the district will provide updates to the community regarding this matter. Press and media inquiries should be directed to the Office of the Superintendent.