



Board of Education
Ms. Jane Royer Barr
Ms. Sandra Nichols
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Mr. Bruce Van Allen

Michael C. Watkins, Superintendent • 400 Encinal Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 • 831-466-5600 • FAX 831-466-5607 • www.santacruz.k12.ca.us

Monday, May 08, 2017

Dear District Superintendent:

On the afternoon of Friday, May 5, 2017, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) received notification from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding the arrest of a former SCCOE employee who was allegedly charged with possession of child pornography. According to the FBI the current charges against this individual do not include any physical contact with a minor. The person arrested was a temporary, part time aide and substitute cabin leader for the SCCOE's Outdoor Science School. He was hired in October 2016 and has since been terminated. According to the FBI all of the evidence against this individual has yet to be reviewed and no victims have been identified due to file encryption. No county office facility has been searched nor have any employees been interviewed as part of the investigation.

We take this matter very seriously and will continue to work closely with the FBI and Sheriff's Office to share all information that we have in order for them to conduct a thorough investigation. We will provide any new information we receive to superintendents as it becomes available. Please call Special Agent Elizabeth Hadley at 415-553-7400 if you have any further questions regarding this case, as she currently leads this investigation.

The Outdoor Science School has strict protocols, practices and procedures in place to safeguard all students. If you would like to speak with a County Office employee in regard to this matter, please contact Mary Anne James at 831-466-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael C. Watkins'.

Michael C Watkins
County Superintendent of Schools