



Communications Office
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Contact: Trinette Marquis, PIO
Twin Rivers USD
916.566.1789

Deliberate Outreach and Engagement Planned to Check in with Community on Role of Twin Rivers Police

Responding to recent concerns, the Twin Rivers Unified School District will be conducting a series of public engagement activities designed to collect constructive feedback on the role of the police department.

“I’m very concerned about the issues raised recently by community members and media reports,” said Superintendent Frank Porter. “In order to effectively keep our students, staff, and families safe, we need our community and police department to be on the same page.”

“We have also received a lot of community support for the Twin Rivers Police Department (TRPD). There are many people out there who appreciate their work during these times of diminishing public resources for safety and social services,” said Porter.

The engagement plans involve in-person community dialogs and opportunities to provide online feedback over the next 4-6 weeks. Specific dates and times will be released as locations are confirmed.

The engagement effort will be structured as an opportunity to check in with parents and community residents on TRPD and receive specific input on proposed roles, jurisdiction, culture and climate, service, strengths of the department, and ways to improve.

Part of the effort will involve educating the public about the history of school police and the specific training and background of TRPD. For example, it is not widely known that TRPD employs many former sheriff department officers and half the officers attended the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department Academy as part of their training. At Twin Rivers school sites, TRPD provides a wide variety of safety services, including traffic safety around campuses, immediate investigation on missing children reports, protection of district property, and immediate response to campus crisis situations. TRPD also serves in a preventive role, providing training and classes on bullying, gang prevention, Neighborhood Watch programs, bicycle safety, and cyber bullying.

Another aspect of the educating process will be a review of the ways in which members of the community can submit concerns and complaints. In addition to a direct complaint to TRPD which is handled in accordance with the process outlined in the State Penal Code, community members can also submit concerns directly to the district Department of Family and Community Involvement.

“To better serve community needs, we need specific, constructive suggestions on our police role and to move the discussion to thoughtful conversations about safety,” said Porter.

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