



SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Committed to Serving Every Student Every Day

Board of Trustees
Gabriela Ornelas, President
Anna Villicana-Arroyo
Chris Wilson
Daniel Sandoval
Tommy Frutos
Superintendent
Jeffrey Weinstein

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

November 25, 2024

RE: Former Santa Paula Unified School District Employee Arrested Regarding Allegations of Sexual Abuse

Santa Paula, CA- Santa Paula Unified School District is aware of the recent arrest of former employee, David Braff, stemming from allegations of sexual abuse that occurred while the individual was employed with the District.

At the time of the allegations, the District took immediate action by placing the employee on administrative leave and contacting Child Protective Services. In addition, the District launched an internal investigation with our legal team, Director of Human Resources, and the Santa Paula Police Department. During the investigation, 13 interviews were conducted that included students, parents, teachers, administrators, and the accused. Once the investigation was concluded, the District contacted the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the purpose of having his credential revoked.

Mr. Braff tendered his resignation shortly after the investigation started. Mr. Braff was an employee with the Santa Paula Unified School District from 08/2015 to 06/2019. During his employment with the District, he was a counselor at McKeveitt Elementary.

As a parent and administrator, I am shocked and horrified. My heart and prayers go out to the students and their families. As Superintendent, I remain fully committed to transparency and accountability and I am continuing to cooperate with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office in its current proceedings. We take any allegations of misconduct seriously and are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all members of our school community.

For any additional questions, please contact Ventura County District Attorney Investigator Greg Webb at (805) 477-1627.

###

Media Contact: For inquiries, please contact Julissa Carrillo, Santa Paula Unified School District Media and Web Communications Specialist, via e-mail at jucarrillo@santapaulausd.org

201 S. Steckel Drive, Santa Paula, CA 93060

Phone Number 805•933•8800 Fax Number 805•933•8026

www.santapaulausd.org