

July 27, 2022

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Rep. Joe Moody, Vice-Chair (Via Email [joe.moody@house.texas.gov](mailto:joe.moody@house.texas.gov))  
Hon. Eva Guzman, Public Member (Via Email [eva.guzman@chamberlainlaw.com](mailto:eva.guzman@chamberlainlaw.com))  
Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768-2910

Re: Response to Issues Raised in the Texas House Interim Investigative Committee  
On the Robb Elementary School Shooting

Dear Investigative Committee Members:

I was informed this week that I was suspended with pay effective July 25, 2022 pending a performance review relating to campus security. I was given a number of directives I must follow during my period of suspension. I was further instructed that at the conclusion of the performance review a decision on the status of my employment would be reached and I would be advised and given further instructions. I was also requested to submit any additional information that may clarify the comments and conclusions in the Interim Report 2022 issued by the Investigative Committee on the Robb Elementary Shooting issued on July 17, 2022 (the "Interim Report").

As it related to the issue of Campus Security, the Interim Report focuses on Classroom Door 111 locking mechanism, the Wi-Fi limitations and the failure to alert the campus through use of the school public address system, and what the Interim Report characterizes a "cultural of complacency" given the repeated, numerous alerts dealing with "bailouts;" i.e., the apprehension of illegal aliens. I respectfully submit the following responses to these issues and hope that when this Interim Report becomes a Final Report, my position will be given full consideration.

CLASSROOM 111 DOOR:

Since this horrific event transpired, much has been said and written about the classroom 111 door. These are the facts:

1. The door to Room 111 is checked by custodial staff every evening to insure it is locked. It was locked when checked the evening before the tragedy. This establishes that the door locks.

2. The teacher in charge of that classroom has to unlock that door every morning to let himself and his students in. He unlocked that door that morning so that he could enter. This establishes that the door locks.

3. The teacher in charge of that classroom complained on more than one occasion that because the door DID lock, his work day was interrupted because the printer for several classrooms was located in that room. He would have to interrupt what he was doing so that other teachers would need access to pick up printing that was sent to that printer. This also establishes that the door locks.

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4. Observations have been made that the door to classroom 111 would have to be forcefully shut to ensure engagement of the locking mechanism. This is the condition of many doors in an aged building. I was a fourth grade teacher for nine years in similar classrooms on the Robb Elementary Campus and the doors had to be pushed or pulled to insure they closed and locked properly. Any building of similar age will have these issues. Teachers know this and work around it. The teacher in charge of Room 111 consistently made sure proper closing and locking every day when he left for the day.

5. The gunman did enter that room. We cannot change that fact. The teacher in charge of that room was severely wounded and has undergone a tremendous ordeal. His memory of the events have not added clarity to answer all questions on how the gunman entered the classroom, but it is inaccurate to conclude that it was because the door to classroom 111 did not lock.

6. The teacher in charge of Room 111 seems to recall that he complained about the door not locking to me for the last 3 years. Again taking into account his horrific ordeal, I point out that I am in my first year as Principal, and my predecessor has no recollection or record of those complaints.

#### WI-FI LIMITATIONS AND FAILURE TO USE CAMPUS PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM:

1. The Raptor telephone app was provided to Robb Elementary personnel to serve as the emergency procedures to implement when needed. All personnel are REQUIRED to have their cell phones at all times. All personnel were trained on the Raptor procedures.

2. The Robb Elementary School Campus has problems with spotty Wi-Fi service. This is not a new revelation. The entire neighborhood has that issue. The problem presents itself through prolonged buffering. I encountered buffering and did what I always do. I went to a window and held my phone up. At the same time I called UCISD Police Chief Pete Arredondo. He picked up the phone and was already aware of the Raptor alert, saying to me before I uttered a single word, "Shut it down, Mandy. Shut it down." I therefore dispute that the Wi-Fi issue prevented Raptor from providing proper notification.

3. The teacher in charge of Room 111 does not recall knowing about the Raptor alert. The fact he doesn't recall does not mean that he did not receive the alert on his cell phone. There should be video that needs to be reviewed that may show the actions of all teachers in the classrooms in that building that may shed light on these questions.

4. It is absolutely true that I did not utilize the Campus PA system to sound that alert. The reason for this is because I was trained NOT to use the PA system in these situations. Our training emphasized that using the Public Address System could compound the problem in creating a panic situation with students and an alert to the one or more gunman that was present to do maximum harm.

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I was trained to consider the PA system as communication with perpetrators that could be used to hurt more students and teachers.

CULTURE OF COMPLACENCY:

1. I wholeheartedly deny that the numerous “bailout” alerts created an complacency on my part to relax the procedures necessary to ensure the safety of the campus. We were trained to treat every alert from any law enforcement agency as a situation with the high potential to escalate into a dangerous episode for students, teachers, and administrators. My performance review gave me an “Accomplished” rating (ahead of “Proficient,” “Developing,” and “Not Demonstrated/Needs Improvement”) in category 4.d:

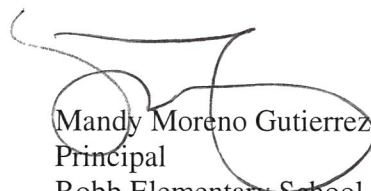
“The principal creates a safe school environment that ensures the social, emotional, and physical well-being of staff and students.”

I believe this high rating on my yearly evaluation was largely based on how seriously I took every “bailout” situation that presented itself.

It is unfair and inaccurate to conclude that I ever became complacent on any security issue of Robb Elementary.

Finally, I will live with the horror of these events for the rest of my life. I want to keep my job not only so that I can provide for my family, but so that I can continue to be on the front lines helping children who survived, the families of all affected, and the entire Uvalde community that I love and want to continue to protect.

Respectfully,



Mandy Moreno Gutierrez  
Principal

Robb Elementary School  
Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District

cc: Hal Harrell, Ed.D. (Via Email [harrell1029@uvaldecisd.net](mailto:harrell1029@uvaldecisd.net))