



**Carlsbad Unified School District**

*... a world class district*

## **General Information and Speaking Points About the Upcoming Trial of Brendan L. O'Rourke charged in the October 8, 2010 Shooting at Kelly Elementary School in Carlsbad**

### **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

- ❖ Mr. O'Rourke's trial will be held at the Vista Courthouse. Proceedings will take place approximately from mid-February through mid-March. Mr. O'Rourke is pleading not guilty by reason of insanity.
- ❖ After jury selection and other processes take place, the trial will progress through two phases. During the Guilt Trial Phase, witnesses, including some students and staff, will be called to testify. After this phase, the jury will deliberate and a verdict will be rendered, followed by a Sanity Trial Phase and then sentencing.
- ❖ Since Kelly Principal Tressie Armstrong may be called as a witness, she is legally mandated not to be in the courtroom to observe the proceedings. Other District officials may attend.

### **ON-SITE KELLY SUPPORT**

- ❖ Lifeline Counselor Miriam Hajimoosa will continue to be available to counsel students and staff at Kelly on Tuesdays through Fridays.
- ❖ Hope Crisis Response Dogs will also visit the Kelly campus before and during the trial to provide their special brand of therapy and reassurance, as needed.
- ❖ As a school that prides itself on making good choices for healthy minds, bodies and spirits, Kelly Elementary will continue its strong focus on student achievement. Principal Armstrong states, "As the leader of our school community, I assure families that the trial will not be allowed to distract us from our mission. Students will continue learning. Staff will continue teaching. We will do everything possible during this time to minimize any adverse effect upon our children, families and community. From the initial incident forward, our focus has been on restoring normalcy and continuing to provide the high quality of education that reflects Cougar pride."

### **CONTACTS/RESOURCES**

- ❖ Specific questions about the legal proceedings should be directed to Summer Stephen; Chief, North County Branch, Deputy District Attorney; 760-806-4001; [summer.stephan@sdccda.org](mailto:summer.stephan@sdccda.org).
- ❖ Media representatives who wish to speak to a District official should contact Superintendent John A. Roach, Ed.D. at [jroach@carlsbadusd.net](mailto:jroach@carlsbadusd.net) or Assistant Superintendent Devin Vodicka, Ed.D. at [dvodicka@carlsbadusd.net](mailto:dvodicka@carlsbadusd.net). They also may call the District Office at 760-331-5000 and ask to be transferred to Dr. Roach or Dr. Vodicka.
- ❖ Families in search of additional health resources can visit <http://www.sdccda.org/helping/victims/victim-services.html>.
- ❖ Dr. Roach states, "The safety, security and emotional well-being of Kelly students and all students are at the forefront of our District's daily efforts. We work diligently to provide an environment in which our students can learn and achieve, and appreciate your partnering with us to support these efforts while we allow the legal process to take its course."