













JOINT STATEMENT

December 27, 2012

Mesa County, Colo.— School District 51, along with its law enforcement partners at the Mesa County Sheriff's Office, the Grand Junction Police Department, the Fruita Police Department, the Palisade Police Department, the Colorado State Patrol, and the District Attorney's Office, want you to know that we have been working together closely to keep our schools safe. Our agencies have been in frequent contact, and as recently as December 20th we met as a group to discuss additional safety measures.

School safety must be addressed in a multi-faceted manner that includes prevention and target-hardening of schools, on-going training of teachers and school staff, and threat mitigation through a coordinated response. All of those topics are being actively discussed and reviewed.

Community involvement is critical to the prevention of school violence. While the facts of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre are still being gathered, in nearly all school shootings there were warning signs that could have been acted upon if only they had been reported to authorities. It is the responsibility of all of us to be vigilant and to quickly report suspicious activities, statements, and threats of violence against our schools.

Our community can be assured that School District 51 and law enforcement in Mesa County share in the horror of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, and we are committed to preventing such an event here.

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