

DJUSD Press Conference

November 17, 2014

11am, District Office Courtyard

Winfred B. Roberson, Jr.

#### OFFICIAL STATEMENT

I thank you for coming today. As you might imagine, this has been a difficult time for the Davis Joint Unified School District and I appreciate the opportunity to make a statement.

First let me state that Davis schools along with our employees have built a tradition of academic excellence and choice program. We are not defined by this single incident. In classrooms right now hundreds of dedicated and nurturing teachers are working on behalf of students.

I have received confirmation from the Davis Police Department that Mr. John O'Brien a teacher at Harper Junior High was arrested Friday. I want to underscore that to the best of our knowledge, the alleged events that led to the arrest did not occur on a school campus and the criminal case remains strictly a police matter. I cannot and will not comment on those details.

In reference to our internal school district investigation, the Board of Education has begun dismissal proceedings with the intent of terminating Mr. O'Brien's employment.

The details of any internal personnel investigation are confidential to protect privacy of those involved. They generally involve a careful examination of all aspects of professional conduct. I am confident that we responded appropriately based on the information from our own investigation.

As a result of the Board of Education's decision, the employee is now on unpaid administrative leave, pending dismissal proceedings with the California Commission on Professional Competence.

While student safety is always our number one priority, it is unfortunate that this incident is what captures the most public attention. However, it is equally important for our community to understand the good work happening every day in Davis schools. This year we are hard at work implementing our district's strategic plan and Local Control Accountability Plan. I am proud of what we do each day for our students, and I commend the professional and talented DJUSD employees who make it all possible.

Thank you. I will take a couple of questions.