Media Contact
Superintendent's Office
Orange Unified School District
714-628-4487

Orange Unified School District Board Approves Automated External Defibrillators at Schools

ORANGE, CA – March 14, 2014 – The Orange Unified School District Board of Education voted to authorize the placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) at designated District schools during the regular-session meeting held March 13, 2014.

The revision to Board Policy 5141 is the result of reports from legal and medical professionals as well as impassioned pleas from the community received by the Board at the September 2013 meeting. An implementation and phasing plan was later presented by staff at the meeting in February 2014.

Under the policy, AEDs will be placed at designated school sites for access by personnel who volunteer to participate in the program. Guidelines and training will be developed for employees regarding the proper use and handling of the devices, and will also specify placement, security and maintenance protocols.

The program is dedicated to the memory of Canyon High School freshman Mitchell Cook, who died after collapsing during freshman football warm-ups in August of 2013. Jim Cook, Mitchell's adoptive father, attended the meeting and was presented with a framed certificate in recognition of the family's involvement and support for the issue.

Board Member Kathryn Moffat observed that "this new policy is a positive and important step toward a new era to better protect our students and teachers."

"The Board of Education recognizes the importance of taking appropriate action whenever an accident or illness threatens the safety, health or welfare of a student at school or during school-sponsored activities," said Board President John Ortega. "This program also fits in with our district-wide goals of improving and modernizing our schools with the latest technology."

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