

Quarterly Update

MANDATED REPORTER SEMINAR

When it comes to protecting a child from suspected abuse or neglect, most school district employees know they are mandated child abuse reporters. Most of us have taken a training or refreshed our knowledge on what it means to be a mandated child abuse reporter. This duty was the topic of the SISC Mandated Reporter Seminar on Thursday, February 16, 2023 in Bakersfield.

The seminar speakers included Anthony DeMaria, Attorney at Law for Demaria Law Firm and a member of the SISC Panel Counsel; Melissa Allen, Attorney at Law for Schools Legal Services; and Ty Taylor, Coordinator with SISC Property and Liability. The speakers included information on what is required of mandated reporters by law, how child services and law enforcement respond to reports, and a review of claims received by SISC from our member districts.

Mandated reporter responsibilities are an individual responsibility. Any district employee who reasonably suspects a child is at risk of abuse or neglect must file a report immediately. This reporting requirement under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) usually starts with a call to the appropriate child services agency and/or law enforcement, followed by a SCAR (Suspected Child Abuse Report) **within 36 hours**. Failure to follow these requirements not only can endanger the health and well-being of the child, but also put the reporter at risk of civil or criminal charges as well as expose the district to liability. When reports are made by telephone and in writing within 36 hours, appropriate actions can be taken to protect the child, the reporter and the district. Documentation of reports is critical. The speakers recommend reporters document the date, time and name of the individual they spoke to by phone, as well as documenting the transmittal of the SCAR report by either retaining successful fax documentation or e-mail. In cases where the reporter does not hear back or perhaps sees the child is at continued risk, additional reports should be made.

The passage of AB 218 expanded the timelines for claims of childhood sexual assault. Plaintiff's will have 22 years after they turn 18 to bring a civil claim. Therefore, a plaintiff can make an allegation up until their 40th birthday. Documentation of the phone call and SCAR report will provide the documentation of the circumstances of the concern, which may be difficult for the reporter and the district to recall decades later. It is important for the district to recognize that if a district has a present-day report of abuse that occurred decades ago—even though the victim is now an adult—a report should be made following CANRA guidelines. This is necessary because there may be other victims and the abuse may still be active.

The seminar included multiple scenarios for discussion. The scenarios provided
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PROPERTY & LIABILITY DIVISION

Mailing:
P.O. Box 1847
Bakersfield, CA 93303
Physical:
2000 K Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: 661-636-4495

Newsletter Editor: Kerri Jones

Weather Losses

California has experienced an abundance of rain, snow and wind in the last few months. If your district has experienced any property damage as a result of weather, it is important that claims are reported as soon as possible. Contacting the SISC office is important in order to establish a detailed and accurate scope of loss from the onset. The SISC Adjuster will establish if a physical inspection of the site is warranted and advise the district accordingly.

Typically, emergency contractors can, and should, be dispatched by the district right away in order to contain the loss and mitigate further damage. Other than emergency repairs, SISC strongly recommends that districts obtain two or three repair estimates prior to the commencement of the work. These estimates should be submitted to the SISC Adjuster as soon as possible for review.

SISC is always available to assist with securing contractors and consultants for assistance with preparing a scope of loss and repair estimate. If you need to report a claim to SISC, the claim form can be accessed on our website:

<https://sisc.kern.org/pl/report-a-claim>



PARMA CONFERENCE

Each year, the Public Agency Risk Management Association, commonly referred to as PARMA, holds its annual conference. The 2023 conference was held in Sacramento beginning on February 7th and running through February 10th.

SISC has long been an active member of the Association. Most importantly, the organization serves as a tremendous networking link for SISC staff to have conversations with and share important information related to the operation of our member districts. PARMA also serves as one of the premier educators for the self-insurance sector.

This year's conference featured seminars on topics such as Cal OSHA, mental health, cyber liability, workplace safety, the California Tort Claims Act, childhood sexual assault safeguards and strategies, and of course, COVID-19.



Anthony DeMaria, Attorney at Law, and one of SISC's panel counsel presented a session on "Defense Litigation Strategies for Public Entities" which was well attended. The session focused on pre-litigation and litigation processes that might serve to benefit the public entity that is the subject of the suit. For example, DeMaria discussed the importance of maintaining the pre-litigation as confidential and advised of strategies to help with this process. As to litigation, DeMaria discuss strategies for preparing an employee for their deposition, so the employee understands the theme and theory of the case. Pre-trial strategies were discussed as well, including the use of mock juries and focus groups to help defense counsel narrow down the important issues that may be faced at trial. SISC plans to have DeMaria present a similar version of this seminar exclusively for our SISC member districts in 2023, so be on the lookout for an announcement with those details.

There are several local PARMA chapters throughout the state and we are fortunate to have a local PARMA chapter here in the central valley. The next PARMA Central Valley Chapter function will be its spring event being held at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District on May 17, 2023. Those interested in learning more about the local chapter and/or attending the May 17th event should contact Jenny Thompson, Vice Chair, at 559-600-1850. PARMA will be also celebrating their 50th Anniversary as an association for public risk management entities in 2024. Districts interested in more information or becoming a member of PARMA can visit their website at www.parma.com



MANDATED REPORTER SEMINAR (CONTINUED)

participants with insight into how districts have implemented mandated reporter responsibilities; the ability to discuss questionable activities and observations; and how the district should report to the proper authorities who can then intervene in suspected child abuse and neglect situations.

BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT—ASSET WORKS

Accurate Property Appraisals and Ongoing Data Integrity: SISC and AssetWorks Celebrate 10 Years of Working Together

As one of the largest public school pool in the United States, Self-Insured Schools of California's (SISC) 156 member districts combine to create a very large statement of insurable values (SOV). It includes more than 18,000 buildings and nearly 6,000 licensed vehicles. An SOV is a declaration of which property your entity intends to insure. For buildings, each entry includes items like address, GPS coordinates, square footage, number of stories, year built, building description, COPE (Construction, Occupancy, Protection, Exposure) and Secondary COPE data and ISO Construction Class.

Maintaining an accurate, up-to-date SOV is important for public entities trying to secure the right property insurance (or reinsurance) coverage at the best rates for their organization. For many entities, maintaining a complete SOV can be a challenge. And unfortunately, missing the mark can affect insurance rates and leave some of your property exposed to risk. That's where AssetWorks Risk Management comes in!

With decades of experience, AssetWorks is uniquely qualified to provide property insurance appraisal services that achieve accurate insurance placement and act as a benchmark for proof-of-loss substantiation in the event of a loss. Our state-of-the-art AMP Risk platform helps risk pools effectively manage the data and values associated with buildings, vehicles, and other assets. It's our combination of valuation experience and technical expertise that allows AssetWorks to assemble the *only* COMPLETE property risk data management solution on the market.

Innovation as a Top Priority

For SISC, innovation has always been important. And that includes providing members with innovative solutions to risk management and finding innovative approaches to collecting, managing, and analyzing exposure data. In 2013, the SISC administrative team knew it was time to take the next step in innovation. Up to that point, SISC had been relying on members to self report building information, the SISC staff to take photos of each building, and a homegrown database system that they were starting to outgrow. After completing a small pilot project and delivering the results in the AMP Property Risk Management system, AssetWorks showed that they could help SISC take that next step forward in innovation and ensure member properties were properly insured.

Celebrating 10 Years of Working Together

This coming August, AssetWorks and SISC will celebrate 10 years of working together in support of SISC's members and mission. Today, AssetWorks continues to provide appraisal services on a rotating schedule for SISC membership. And the AMP Property Risk software is used to manage all data associated with insured buildings, property-in-the-open, and licensed vehicles. Here's a look at just some of the great ways we're working together:

- Increased data confidence and more accurate insurance coverage as a result of AssetWorks' onsite property insurance appraisal services
- Values and data associated with buildings, vehicles, and other assets are efficiently managed in AMP and can be used to support loss control, proof-of-loss, property marketing and placement, and more.
- Valuations kept current in non-appraisal years using the AMP Valuation Estimator. Bonus: valuations for new buildings can be benchmarked using the Estimator prior to

The logo for AssetWORKS features the word "Asset" in a dark grey sans-serif font, followed by "WORKS" in a red sans-serif font. The letter "O" in "WORKS" is replaced by a red gear icon.

Property & Liability Division

Robert Kretzmer, Director
661-636-4709

Tyrone Taylor, Coordinator
661-636-4601

Lilia Beck, Administrative
Secretary
661-636-4495

Ryan Bourget, Adjuster
661-636-4606

Roxann Dailey-Webb, Adjuster
661-636-4848

Hilda Hankins, Adjuster
661-636-4694

Pat Tumbarello, Adjuster
805-929-5950

Shelby Gonzales,
Safety & Loss Control
661-636-4604

Kerri Jones,
Safety & Loss Control
661-636-4376

Randy Rogers,
Safety & Loss Control
661-636-4607

Debbie Jackson,
Student Insurance
661-636-4206

Elsa Lara,
Student Insurance
661-636-4736

Jahna Lewis,
Student Insurance
661-636-4871

Sabrina Moten,
Student Insurance
661-636-4414

Forms Library

Did you know SISC Property & Liability has a number of suggested forms available on our website. Below is a listing of forms:

- Accident Report
- Building Add-Drop Form
- Vacant Site Notification
- Building Notify—New Construction
- Claim for Damages
- Confidential School Investigation Form
- Driver Registration Form
- DMV Driver License Inquiry
- Authorization for Release of Driver Record
- Facilities Use Application
- High Frequency Playground Inspections Form
- Incident Report—Student
- SISC Vehicle Accident Flyer
- Student Accident Coverage
- Student Accident Letter & Claim form
- Supplemental Student Accident Coverage Brochure
- Suspected Child Abuse Report (SCAR)
- Tackle Football Coverage
- Voluntary Activities Participation form
- Vehicle Accident Report

To access these forms and others, please visit our website at: <https://sisc.kern.org/pl>

NICK KOUKLIS

After 12 years as Chief Executive Officer of SISC, Nick Kouklis is retiring in June 2023. As you may know, the SISC JPA consists of Property and Liability as well as Workers' Compensation and Health Benefits Department, all existing to serve school districts. All SISC members are also supported by a strong Finance and Technology departments. Kouklis and his management team, guide 93 staff members with the motto of "Schools Helping Schools". During His tenure at SISC, the Property and Liability Department grew from 128 members to 156 members and the Health Benefits department grew from 361 members to 469 members. Under Kouklis' tenure the SISC Department Boards and Committees were expanded to ensure broad representation throughout the state. SISC Property and Liability Division serves member districts in 19 California counties with a total Average Daily Attendance (ADA) count of 368,832 students. There are 39 board members between the three SISC boards. Overseeing an organization with this breadth, requires a great deal of knowledge and leadership. Kouklis has guided SISC in a way that keeps our core value at the forefront of serving our member districts. As noted by Robert Kretzmer, Director of SISC's Property & Liability division, " Nick guided SISC through one of its most tumultuous periods in its history, the COVID-19 pandemic. It took a great deal of innovation and patience to keep SISC functioning and Nick deserves credit for leading us through that difficult time".

A native of Exeter, Kouklis knows the California central valley well. Kouklis came to SISC from Lakeside School District, where he was Superintendent and Principal. His



career also includes leadership roles at Delano Union Elementary School District and Fairfax School District in Kern County. A commitment to education runs in the Kouklis family. Both his parents were educators and his wife was Director of Student Services for a local district before her recent retirement.

Kouklis is an avid Fresno State Bulldogs and USC Trojan fan. He has also volunteered as a baseball coach for local youth teams and enjoys playing golf. Kouklis' son Troy is a senior in high school. In his retirement, we imagine he will be spending more time enjoying these activities and time with family.

"It's been a great run for me and our JPAs over the past 12 years, but it is time for a new breath of fresh air to lead this organization into the future. I want to thank our dedicated staff, the entire SISC management team, our outstanding Board of Directors, and all of our business partners who have played such a key role in the culture we have created. From Dr. Christine Frazier hiring me, Dr. Mary Barlow's guidance and the KCSOS Senior Cabinet's support, I leave this place with immense gratitude to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools and the entire SISC team. I am proud of all the accomplishments attained over my tenure and I look forward to helping Dave in any role that can help the SISC family" said Kouklis.

On behalf of all the SISC staff members and Board of Directors, we thank you for your leadership over the last 12 years and wish you well as you embark on your next adventure.

DR. DAVE OSTASH

Dr. Dave Ostash has been selected as the new Chief Executive Officer of SISC effective July 1, 2023. Dr. Ostash comes to SISC from the Sierra Sands Unified School District in eastern Kern County. Dr. Ostash served in various roles at the district, including Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Principal, Dean of Students and Teacher. During his role as Superintendent he led the district through the 2019 earthquakes and the COVID pandemic. "I have loved every minute of my 27 year career in Sierra Sands and I will now enthusiastically invest my loyal service to SISC and our philosophy—Schools Helping Schools" said Ostash.



Dr. Ostash is well known and respected in the community, serving on the boards of the Ridgecrest Economic Development Corporation, the Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce, the Alta One Federal Credit Union, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital and the RidgeProject. He is also an Adjunct Lecturer for CSU, Bakersfield and California Lutheran University. "I came to fully appreciate how special a non-profit, member-centric organization is through my ten-plus years of volunteering at AltaOne Federal Credit Union. As a board member I developed a deep commitment to the ideals and values associated with a organization that pools its resources and

exists solely for the mutual benefit of all involved. So, as I embark on this new and exciting transition in joining the SISC team, I am invigorated by the opportunity that we all have in our organization to serve our member school districts" said Ostash.

Dr Ostash has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of California, Los Angeles, Master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction and teaching credential from Chapman University, Administrative Credential from CSU Bakersfield and his Doctorate in Education from Azusa Pacific University. He is also a graduate of the School Business Management Certificate Program/Chief Business Officials Certification from University of Southern California and the Association of California School Administrators Superintendent Academy. He also serves on the SISC Workers' Compensation and the SISC Property & Liability boards.

Dr. Ostash and his wife Sarah are the proud parents of five children, ranging in age from 12 to 21, who are full time students ranging from middle school to university. The family enjoys time together at baseball games, swim meets and gathering around the dinner table. "I always look forward to little weekend trips, swimming or walking for fitness, reading and watching the Dodgers with our golden retriever!" said Ostash.

The SISC Property & Liability Division is excited about this new chapter for our organization and welcome Dr. Ostash.



Informational Memos

SISC Safety & Loss Control staff are here to serve our member districts. We often get questions about school activities and what SISC would recommend. While we are available to you by phone or e-mail, we also have a number of Informational Memos available on our website that cover some of our more common questions. Below is a list of Memos currently available:

- Animals in Schools
- Bounce Houses and Inflatable Attractions
- CANRA and Title IX
- SCAR Report link
- Certificate Request Memo Guidelines
- Concussion Education & Protocols
- Concussion Insurance program
- Facilities Use Agreements
- Fentanyl Crisis
- Fireworks
- Hazardous Recreational Activities
- Lab & Science Classroom Safety
- Light Poles
- Maintaining Safe Playgrounds
- Protecting Vacant Property
- School Environments
- Space Heaters & Fans
- Transporting Students
- Wildfire Mitigation

These Memos and more are available on our website at: <https://sisc.kern.org/pl>

Maintaining District Contacts

Communicating with our member districts is a top priority for SISC. Communicating items such as coverage summary memos; Memorandums of Coverage (MOC); insurance and school industry updates and memos; and information of training opportunities are types of information important to share with our members. In that effort, we strive to maintain current contact information for our district administrative contacts.

If you have changes in administrative staffing, e-mail addresses, phone numbers or mailing addresses for your district, please e-mail Lilia Beck, Administrative Secretary at libeck@siscschools.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR

As this edition of the Quarterly Report represents our first edition for 2023, we wanted to touch on a few items of interest for our members.

- The Projected 2023-2024 Property & Liability Premium Notification letters will probably have arrived by the time of this publication. As noted by Nick Kouklis, Chief Executive Officer, the overall 6.92% increase for SISC's Property & Liability division represents the lowest increase since the 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- Please remember when listing your district's vehicles, that if a multi-passenger, sport utility or van is used to transport students *20% or more of the time* the unit must be classified as a bus.
- When reviewing your inventory, should you notice a discrepancy between what is listed in the SISC data base for buses and what you show in your fleet count, the difference may be due to the 20% factor noted above.
- SISC continues to offer on-line training opportunities through www.getsaftytrained.com. The courses cover a variety of topics and the system allows for tracking of course work completed by district staff. Courses are offered on safety topics related to employment, equipment and tools, medical and emergency issues, health education, student safety, employment practices and workers' compensation, and environmental compliance and hazardous materials. Please contact your district's assigned Safety and Loss Control Specialist on how best to access this training opportunity.

SISC will also be offering the STOPit program to our member districts for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Many of you have taken advantage of this program in the past and continue to utilize it today. The STOPit mobile app provides a safe, anonymous and comfortable way for students to share information with you so that you can provide help – as quickly and efficiently as possible. Those districts interested in taking advantage of this program offered by SISC should contact Kerri Jones, Safety & Loss Control Specialist at 661-636-4376 or by e-mail at kejones@siscschools.org

We look forward to working with you for the remainder of fiscal year 2022 – 2023 and on into the 2023 – 2024 year. We are sure there are many challenges that await us and SISC is here to help.

BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

an onsite appraisal.

- Management of SISC member-owned licensed vehicles has been streamlined including allowing members to leverage AMP to update policies and print certificates of insurance.
- Detailed data can be turned into actionable insight with AMP's pre-formatted and ad-hoc reports that offer both an overview and detailed view of all insured property.
- Data integrity is maintained by taking advantage of approval processes, auditable history and various levels of user access in AMP. Security features keep data encrypted in flight and at rest and help ensure servers are protected against hackers and other threats.

Never Stop Innovating

The team at AssetWorks values its relationship with the team at SISC and is excited to continue working together to provide SISC and its members even more innovative solutions to risk management. Later this year, SISC plans to upgrade to the next generation of AssetWorks' AMP software. Some of the new features users can take advantage of include the ability to compare data updates for any field (not just valuation data), a more mobile responsive design, additional flexibility/configurability, improved reporting and more. Overall, we've enjoyed working with SISC and its members for the past 10 years and look forward to many more productive, fun, and innovative years to come!