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**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONDUCT PUBLIC SCHOOL
SAFETY FORUM**

County Board to address critical issues such as Fentanyl, sexual assault, human trafficking, surveillance, social media and cybersecurity

COSTA MESA CALIFORNIA-On Wednesday, September 20, 2023, the Orange County Board of Education will present a public school safety forum to educate the Orange County community on issues that threaten our students lives every day.

The "Savvy Safety in Public Schools Form," organized and moderated by Board Vice President Dr. Lisa Sparks will focus on major risks, signs, and symptoms of drug exposure, sex trafficking social media and school-aged sexual assault. "Public safety in our schools is of paramount importance not only for our students and their families, but also our teachers and staff on the front lines every day," stated Vice President Sparks. Several months ago the Board discussed an informational experience that would give parents, students, and teachers the tools necessary to make schools safe. "We welcome our friends, neighbors, colleagues and constituents to join us, to do whatever we can to protect our students," offered Board President Tim Shaw.

The Board has compiled a veritable "Who's Who" in school safety. Speakers include state and federal law enforcement personnel, teachers, cybersecurity experts and those with direct experience with human trafficking. "We tried to bring together the Hall of Fame of school safety," quipped President Shaw. Presenters will also include Assemblyman Bill Essayli and Board of Supervisors Chairman Don Wagner to discuss sexual assault and the Fentanyl crisis in Orange County respectively.

The Board of Education is committed to a transparent marketplace of ideas. The Board has previously held informational forms on the California Healthy Youth Act, Ethnic Studies, and Charter Schools.

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The Orange County Board of Education provides educational opportunities for Orange County students, promotes student achievement, and offers leadership, services, and resources for Orange County school districts, educators, and the community. The Board consists of five lay members who represent the five trustee areas of the county. Board members are elected for a four-year term by the electors of the trustee area which they represent. From among its members, the Board elects a president and vice president.