

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

TASK FORCE



1983-1984



# Christian Brothers High School

4315 SACRAMENTO BOULEVARD • 452-2876 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95820

## TASK FORCE

To: Members of the Task Force

December 1983

For its November meeting, the Task Force membership met in the form of Sub-Committees to study the school's problems from the Political, Planning, Education and Law Enforcement perspectives.

In reviewing the Sub-Committee reports, it was determined that, rather than attempt to consolidate their findings into one final report, their contents should be relayed to the membership as presented.

You are requested to review the reports and consider their conclusions. At our final meeting on January 17th, you will have the opportunity to present any recommendations, modifications and/or corrections which you feel may be appropriate.

The reports generally conclude that the neighborhood surrounding Christian Brothers High School is substandard and will not be improved significantly in the foreseeable future. As a consequence, the major recommendations center on improving the physical security of the school campus together with procedures designed to protect the students and staff on and off the campus. Finally, it is recommended that the Christian Brothers initiate a long range study in order to determine the ultimate resolution of the challenges facing the school.

In recognition of your participation as a member of the Task Force and in appreciation for the contributions made by its members, the January meeting will consist of a reception and luncheon hosted by the Christian Brothers. Our final meeting will be concluded immediately following lunch.

Ed Lammerding  
Chairman

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL TASK FORCE

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

Educational Committee Members

Brother Richard Camara  
Tom Giugni  
Ron Morgan  
Thea Stidum  
Brother Martin Fallin  
Sister Rosemary Zaffuto  
Dr. Fred Stewart  
Betty Downey  
Kevin Matheny

Education Sub-Committee Members

Tom Giugni  
Ron Morgan  
Thea Stidum  
Dr. Gordon Westover  
Ernie Schaffer

DATE OF MEETING

November 7, 1983 - 7:00 a.m. - All members in attendance

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Christian Brothers High School is a private Catholic male secondary school. It is administered by the Brothers of the Christian Schools under the authority of the Provincial of the Christian Brothers and the Director of Education for the West Coast Province. There has been a campus located in Sacramento since 1876 educating male youth primarily from Sacramento City and its suburban areas.

The Christian Brothers High School has changed its campus location once within the past 25 years. However, that locational change was within one mile of its previous site. Since 1960, the community immediately surrounding the present campus site has undergone a complete socio-economic change. What had been a suburban, middle-class family residential area is presently and economically deprived, transient residential area.

Within the past two years, incidents of crime have been committed upon Christian Brothers students and resident Christian Brothers staff. These criminal acts have happened to students while awaiting bus transportation near the school site. The criminal acts toward the Brothers have been the invasion of their residence resulting in armed robbery and burglary. The school itself has been vandalized and burgled within this time frame.

The present administration of Christian Brothers High School has appointed a community task force to study the plight of the Christian Brothers and their residential status on the campus of the high school in light of the foregoing facts and to make recommendations on several questions concerning the school itself. The committee has taken the liberty to rephrase and to paraphrase the questions posed during the several sessions of the task force in joint meetings.

1. Is Christian Brothers High School a necessary and needed educational institution in Sacramento?
2. What is the role of Christian Brothers High School within the long range education plans of the Sacramento Catholic Diocese?

3. What relationship does Christian Brothers High School have in the educational planning for male secondary school students in the Sacramento City Unified School District?
4. What effect would a change in Christian Brothers High School campus location have upon:  
(a) Oak Park?      (b) the Sacramento Community?
5. What efforts must be expended to make the present campus site desirable?

The Education Committee of the task force will not attempt to answer all of the above questions. However, it will make recommendations within the limited context of experience with public school campuses within the same general area as the Christian Brothers High School campus. Admittedly, there are many differences between the private campus and the public campus. It is only just to highlight several of the more important differences:

1. Public school campuses do not also serve as the residence for its employees.
2. Public school campuses are not serving a single-sexed clientele.
3. Public school campuses do not charge tuition for their operational budget, thus having total community support for its funds.
4. Public schools serve their immediate neighborhood children, most within walking distance.

It appears necessary to state, however, that the similarities between the public and private campus are many more than the differences. Consequently, the Education Committee's recommendations should prove to be of value to Christian Brothers High School regardless of the campus location. The recommendations should lead to positive actions which will improve any educational environment if applied judiciously, with a determination for out-reach.

#### COMMENDATIONS OF THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee commends:

1. The Board of Regents Steering Committee for the establishment of a broad-based community task force to formally investigate and evaluate the recently increasing number of violent incidents involving the students, staff and school
2. The task force for diligently studying the problem from the perspective of demographics, planning, education, law enforcement and politics
3. The staff of the school, often at great personal risk, for continuing their commitment to providing for the education of the young men attending Christian Brothers High School
4. The on-going joint activities engaged in by the staffs of Christian Brothers and Oak Ridge Elementary School and the occasional cooperative activities with other public schools

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee recommends:

1. That bus routes and passenger loading zones adjacent to the school campus be established by working with the Regional Transit Authority
2. That school designated "parent pick-up points" be established where students are to wait for transportation home
3. That consideration be given to the hiring of private security officers for supervising extra-curricular events
4. That an investigation be made into the possibility of the joint use of the Sacramento City Unified School District's special officers on an on-call basis during the daytime and on a routine basis during the night patrol
5. That consideration be given to the hiring of staff assistants to patrol the school's grounds and halls during the time school is in session
6. That there be continued encouragement of staff, student and parent victims to identify and to file charges with the police department
7. That there be in-service of students, parents and staff regarding the protection of self and property
8. That Christian Brothers High School further improve the school facility (e.g., mark equipment, evaluate traffic patterns, improve lighting system, and install silent alarms on windows and doors)
9. That the Christian Brothers administration consider the employment of a school community worker and other community workers residing in the immediate area
10. That the Christian Brothers administration examine the use of the following community resources to improve school climate: Police Athletic League, Oak Park PAC Project, Secret Witness Program, and Recreation Department
11. That the Christian Brothers staff expand the tutoring program for elementary students residing in the area
12. That the school set up definite procedures to address the following: threats against all school personnel, private or public property damage, graffiti, court actions, and the safety of all students

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS TASK FORCE  
LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
FINAL COMMENDATIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS

DATE OF MEETING: NOVEMBER 11, 1983

(MEETING HELD AT SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CONFERENCE ROOM)

MEMBERS PRESENT: JACK KEARNS  
OSCAR SALDANO  
BLAKE KOLLER  
ROBBIE WATERS  
ROGER DICKSON  
JOHN DOUGHERTY  
JUDGE EDUWARD GARCIA  
HOWARD BUSCH  
BROTHER JOSEPH DESIMONE, F.S.C.  
JAMES SCHENK  
JERRY KIRRENE - Excused

Christian Brothers High School commissioned a Task Force for the purpose of studying the recent rash of incidents affecting the school property and persons. The Law enforcement committee, a subcommittee of the task force, has been charged with the responsibility of studying the problems the school has experienced from a Law Enforcement viewpoint. Representatives of the County Sheriff's department, the City Police, the District Attorney's Office, a lawyer, realtor, private school security supervisor and a school administrator cooperated in the preparation of the report. The following commendations and recommendations are offered as a summary of the aforementioned report.

In general, the subcommittee concludes that the serious security problems Christian Brothers is presently experiencing are influenced by the generally depressed economic conditions of the Oak Park neighborhood. Short of moving the school from that neighborhood, no immediate resolutions are evident. But the very question of relocation is one which the school through its various levels must consider. The group feels this decision is most appropriately made by the Brothers. The following recommendations and commendations are offered as a means of improving the general school climate and increasing the security of the campus and the safety of the persons involved with the school.

COMMENDATIONS:

The law enforcement subcommittee commends Christian Brothers High school for

-its continued commitment to educational excellence in the midst of the recent problems it has experienced especially regarding those problems which led to the creation of the Task Force.

-its convening of a Task force for the purpose of study, evaluation and recommendation in aiding the school to resolve some of the recent security problems which it is experiencing.

-the opportunity afforded to various members of the law enforcement agencies of the city and county to cooperate in the Task Force. And further, commends Christian Brothers for its encouragement and assistance by actively participating in this joint venture.

-seeking immediate assistance from the Sacramento City Police Department in all incidents of assault, theft, vandalism, robbery and other violations of the law which have and continue to effect the school, its faculty, students or Brothers.

-cooperating with follow-up investigations by the Police Department and the District Attorney's office.

-seeking the assistance of the Sacramento Police Department for directed patrol during crucial times of the school day for the protection of students, especially those travelling to and from the nearby bus stops.

-its openness in allowing the Police Department to utilize the campus as a remote report writing location for local sector officers.

-the many steps initiated by the school to insure the protection of the school property and persons in recent years including extensive facility renovations, additional site lighting and increased utilization of security for campus events.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Law Enforcement subcommittee recommends

- That Christian Brothers, through its various support groups, school administration and regional superiors, give serious consideration to the questions pertaining to the location of Christian Brothers High School.

(Making the decision to move the school to another location would render many of the following recommendations moot. If it is the decision of the Brothers to remain at the present location, the following recommendations are offered):

-That Christian Brothers High School establish regular channels of communication with the local law enforcement agencies regarding all matters of school security, personal safety and/or property damage. It is further recommended that a liaison person be appointed who would work with the Sheriff and District Attorney's office as well.

-That Christian Brothers investigate the possibility of locating a Regional Transit bus stop on or closer to the school premises.

-That Christian Brothers initiate a program of faculty and staff preparation to deal with serious situations which may arise due to security breaches or incidents of a potentially threatening nature.

-That Christian Brothers become actively involved in city-wide programs which are presently sponsored jointly by the Sacramento School Department and the Sheriff and Police Departments regarding school security and law enforcement.

-That Christian Brothers continue to strike a balance in its attempt to resolve the issues of personal and property safety with its need to survive and flourish as an educational institution in the city of Sacramento, especially regarding the school's public image and public relation.

-That Christian Brothers continue to reach out into the Oak Park Community to share its concerns with local neighbors. Further, that it continue taking the lead in doing so by sponsoring such programs as the Neighborhood Watch Program.

-That Christian Brothers continue availing itself of the directed patrol assistance of the Sacramento Police Department before and after the school day.

-That Christian Brothers give serious consideration to the suitability of training volunteer parents to assist in the supervision of school functions as auxiliaries to school security.



RECOMMENDATIONS: (cont.)

- That Christian Brothers give serious consideration to establishing full time security on the campus, especially in the evenings and during crucial times, as opposed to the part-time services of drive-through security.

- That the following changes in the physical plant be considered to augment the plant security, and safety of persons of the school:

operation identification numbers listed on all school machinery and major appliances. (A number has been issued by the Sacramento Police Department for this purpose.)

major entry and access pathways of the school should be posted with NO TRESPASSING signs.

alarm decals should be located strategically throughout the school buildings

security-type plants should be placed near windows by which access to buildings may be achieved.

replace the front door of the Brothers' Residence with a steel door and frame. A single cylinder deadbolt with a heavy duty strike plate should also be installed.

construct another entry lane or driveway to the main parking lot to handle the heavy flow of traffic which should allow for the entry of emergency vehicles if the need arises

install a public telephone at the main entry of the school (Sacramento Boulevard) for use by students and campus visitors thus providing necessary available for emergency services after school hours.

continue to replace damaged school property that has been vandalized so no further destruction will be generated by the presence of such markings.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL - TASK FORCE

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT - FINAL REPORT

1. NAME OF SUBCOMMITTEE - Political Area

2. DATE OF MEETING - November 15, 1983  
4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.  
Brothers' Residence

3. ATTENDANCE

Present:

Maxine Walker, Chairperson  
Brother Bertram Coleman, FSC  
Ron Hermann  
Ed Lammerding  
Judge Leonard Friedman  
Jean Lahey, Recorder

Excused:

Austin Gerber

Absent:

Jordan Walker  
Bob Martin  
Tobias Johnson  
William Lee  
Gordon Schaber  
Joseph Serna

4. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT:

It is unlikely that any social or economic change in the surrounding neighborhood will of themselves accomplish any amelioration of the existing situation. The violence and intrusion experienced by Christian Brothers High School, as with its neighbors, are instigated by persons alienated from society for various reasons and there is little chance of building bridges towards this element of society.

The school, like society itself, must seek means of securing itself against this threatening element.

5. COMMENDATIONS:

- A. We commend the Christian Brothers High School Principal and the Administrative staff for their well prepared presentation of the problem of violence and vandalism experienced by the staff, faculty and students.
- B. We commend the Resource Personnel for their reports, charts, graphs, statistics, etc., that reflected their keen interest in assisting the Christian Brothers in dealing with their problem.
- C. We commend the school for the steps taken to improve security on the campus through better lighting, fencing, enclosed garages and patrol for all evening events.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

6. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Install a fence out farther in front of the school to the sidewalk area. (Possibly an attractive wrought iron and non-climable). Install fence around entire school.
- B. Light up the field area (back portion) of the school.
- C. Have special gates in front of the school which would open only during daytime.
- D. Have security around-the-clock, 50% of the time by either (a) monitors similar to Sacramento High School's or (b) trained security. Consideration should be given to hiring ethnic security people.
- E. Have "police call" station on campus as suggested by Chief Kearns.
- F. Have two entrance/exits.
- G. Use alarm stickers on windows.
- H. Install "no trespassing" signs - riveted in place.
- I. Use remote control or phone system spaced throughout the campus for use of school personnel.
- J. Alarm areas, or tie into other alarm systems, those areas with expensive equipment such as computers, typewriters, lab equipment, etc.
- K. Do not allow students to remain at school for rides, etc. unless at least 3 students are together. The last student to leave should be under the supervision of an adult.
- L. Inform parents of what the Task Force is doing. Supply information to parents about the danger of bicycling and the use of busses at night.
- M. Prohibit bicycling to school -- possible use of vans or special bus routing. Move the bus stops.
- N. Establish visitor badge system (check in and check out).
- O. Inform parents of all information that would make them more comfortable regarding the safety of their children.

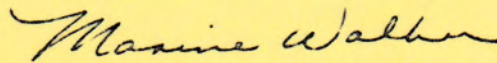
## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

7. FINAL STATEMENT:

The recommendations of this subcommittee are deliberately limited to increasing safety for personnel and students and to increasing security for the physical plant of Christian Brothers High School. Sitting as a subcommittee we found ourselves unwilling to report on the underlying issue of whether Christian Brothers High School should be moved in the event these measures prove either impractical from a cost standpoint, or unacceptable from an esthetic or philosophical viewpoint.

We submit these recommendations as "This or the equivalent must be done"; not as "Perhaps these measures should be tried". Our subcommittee is unanimous in the view that Christian Brothers must be a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, guests, and for the Brothers living on the premises.

POLITICAL AREA SUBCOMMITTEE



Maxine Walker, Chairman

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL  
TASK FORCE

PLANNING AREA SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT  
DECEMBER 8, 1983

November 15, 1983 Meeting:

Committee Members

Present

Ron Carissimi, Chairman  
Charles Sylva  
Rev. Ed Melfort  
Mrs. Donna Parsons

Absent

John Jackson, Jr.  
Msgr. Albert O'Connor  
Rev. N.W. Cooke

December 7, 1983 Meeting:

Committee Members

Present

Ron Carissimi, Chairman  
Msgr. Albert O'Connor  
Mrs. Donna Parsons  
John Jackson, Jr.

Absent

Charles Sylva  
Rev. Ed Melfort  
Rev. N. W. Cooke

The goal of the Planning Area Subcommittee in relationship to the overall mission of the Task Force was fourfold:

1. State the present conditions in the Oak Park neighborhood area.
2. Forecast the probable future conditions in the area.
3. Assess the perception of Christian Brother's High School by the Oak Park Community.
4. Suggest how mutual relationship might be established and what assistance can be expected from local government.

### Present Conditions

The Oak Park Area is an economically deprived area with a higher-than-average rate of crime and violence. The population composition continues to shift towards a higher minority representation. The number of renters has increased to 45.8% of the population. Evidence indicates the most violent crimes against the Christian Brothers have been perpetrated by transients. Minor criminal acts and/or vandalism have been performed by male youths. Violence has been external and not internal.

Although City agencies have invested millions of dollars in improvement projects in the area, no dramatic affect has occurred on poverty, crime or violence. Lack of confidence in the stability of the area has kept private reinvestment from occurring.

### Future

Oak Park will continue to be an economically deprived area. Government agencies will continue to invest millions. However, major private investment will lag without restored confidence in the area or proper incentives by the Federal Government. Economic recovery will occur when private and government sectors work together, and only then will the crime situation affecting Christian Brother's High School be reduced.

### PERCEPTION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHER'S HIGH SCHOOL

Christian Brother's High School is not a neighborhood school, it is a commuter school. Brother's has never been and probably never will be a neighborhood school.

Our assumption is that the typical Oak Park resident thinks of Christian Brother's very little, if at all; but when he does, views Christian Brother's High School as a private school for wealthy white boys located in their neighborhood but not a vital force or active participant in their daily activities.

Government agencies view Christian Brother's High School as a positive asset to the area and an excellent source of education. However, these same agencies do not see Christian Brother's properly involved into the neighborhood community.

Christian Brother's High School's average stay in prior locations has been forty (40) years. Brother's has been in its present location for twenty (20) years. Although the school is in excellent condition, plans may have to be considered to shorten the average stay in this location.

#### COMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING AREA SUBCOMMITTEE

1. That Christian Brother's High School was not part of the "white flight" out of the Oak Park Area that occurred 10 years ago.
2. The establishment by the Christian Brothers of several programs that address and respect the needs of the neighborhood
  - A. Student Financial Aid Programs
  - B. Tutorial Programs
  - C. Black Study Groups
  - D. Observance of Martin Luther King Holiday (before officially recognized as a holiday).
3. The courage the Christian Brothers have demonstrated when confronted with personal danger.
4. The establishment of the Task Force to address the problem and the diverse make-up of the Resource people, as well as the Task Force members themselves.
5. The openness and hospitality of the Christian Brothers towards the Task Force, visitors and guests.
6. The large financial investment in security measures for the safety of the Brothers and students.
7. The ability of the Christian Brothers and lay faculty in maintaining a positive academic atmosphere within the school that allows the students to receive a proper Christian education.
8. The high level of care and maintenance of the physical plant.
9. That by its presence in Oak Park, Christian Brother's High School stands as an example that difficult times can be endured. The school will serve as a source of confidence that is so needed to entice private investment in the area.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING AREA SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Continue to invest in security measures, as needed, to protect the Brothers, faculty and students. Some security measures worth consideration are a safety officer, more secure type fencing, and a connection road to existing streets on east end of campus.
2. Continue to maintain the physical plant at a high level.

3. Continue to make students aware of the potential problem areas and cooperate with law enforcement agencies to reduce the possibility of students becoming victims of crimes.
4. The establishment of a criterion by the Christian Brothers in cooperation with the Diocese, of an optimum location for the next Christian Brother's High School location. The Christian Brothers and the Diocese might be able to coordinate a criterion on site selection that would allow for some type of joint venture use of the facility.
5. The establishment of a long-range Site Selection Committee and a Finance Committee to locate such a site and to study how the relocation could be financed.
6. The Christian Brothers, faculty and students should involve themselves in neighborhood activities, i.e. Interfaith Service Bureau and Oak Park PAC, in such a way that they can become aware of situations that will allow them to initiate positive actions before problems arise. Current actions have been more reactionary to a negative situation after it has occurred.
7. A Community Relations Committee should be established by the Brothers or Regents to develop and study various means to improve relationships with the neighborhood and increase the number of neighborhood student scholarships.
8. Continue to develop the relationships with government agencies and others that have been initiated by the Task Force.
9. Since the goal of Christian Brother's High School is to be "number one" in all things and in every way, let us strive to be the "number one" neighbor in the Oak Park area.