August 28, 2019

To the Parents, Staff, Students and Community of Edcouch-Elsa ISD:

Edcouch-Elsa ISD is sending this notice to inform you of a computer security incident involving certain student and staff information from Truan Jr. High and Transportation Department during the Surplus Auction held on April 6, 2019 at the Ybarra Middle School. The district will be taking precautionary measures by informing individual parents of students affected by this incident and as well as any staff affected. The district sincerely apologizes for any inconvenience or concern this may cause to the parents, students, and community.

The district recently learned that unauthorized individuals delivered computers to the surplus auction site at Ybarra Middle School prior to the auction without the knowledge or consent of the Technology Director or Superintendent. The surplus auction site is a secured site in which only authorized personnel are allowed. The district is currently investigating the matter and those individuals involved in this incident.

As you may already be aware, this incident has been in the newspapers and media for the past several weeks. This incident was reported to the media by the company that purchased the computers. During my transition into Interim-Superintendent, I was made aware that prior administration had not reported this incident to the parents, students, or community. I would like to express my regret of this occurrence. The district has made every effort and several attempts to recover the computers from the buyer but our attempts have been unsuccessful. The district has taken legal action to recover the computers in order to secure the data. In addition, I have asked the Attorney General’s Office for assistance in this matter. The Attorney General and I have been in communications on procedures to follow.

Edcouch-Elsa ISD takes this matter very seriously. We value our students, parents, and community. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may have caused. Keeping your child’s personal information secure is of the utmost importance to us, and would like to inform you that we are taking steps to address and contain the incident. In the future, the district will be eliminating its computer surplus equipment sales from the district surplus auction. This change will prevent this incident from happening again in the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Rivera
Interim-Superintendent of Schools