



*Craig Guensler  
Superintendent*

## Team Lone Tree

*Lone Tree School & Wheatland Charter Academy  
Wheatland Elementary School District  
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*Jodie Jacklett  
Principal*

**Subject:** Student Expulsion Hearing Investigation Report

**Student:** Giovanni Trujillo

**Grade/Teacher:** 3<sup>rd</sup>/Mr. Merchant

**Date of Incident:** 10/29/2025

I left campus for an off-campus appointment at dismissal. At 2:28 p.m. I received a text from the school office. Administrative assistant, Jennifer Bender, texted two photos of a gun. I called the office and she told me that para-educator, Audrey Bender, heard Giovanni and a few peers talking about a gun in Giovanni's backpack. This occurred at dismissal. Giovanni and peers were walking from class to south campus with his peers in order to check in or after school program. Giovanni attends an after-school enrichment program. Audrey was walking 1<sup>st</sup> grade students to the after-school program. She reported to Jennifer what she heard. Jennifer called Tara Aroz, after school director who went to the backpack area, knowing which one was Giovanni's, Tara opened the backpack and removed the gun. She brought the gun to the office. Jennifer took photos and texted them to me at this time.

Jennifer said the gun was not loaded and no ammunition was found by Tara in the backpack. The gun looks realistic and cocks back. The gun is plastic. I asked Jenn to put the gun in my office and to thank the team for their help and that I would call back.

My next call was to our superintendent, Craig Guensler.

I then called Giovanni's father to inform him of what was found. I told him I would call him back shortly, but I was still gathering information.

My next call was to school, Jennifer Walsh, school psychologist, as she was looking up information about the gun, as she was in the office assisting the process when I called in initially. The gun appears, by quick research, to be some kind of trainer that fires plastic type bullets that do not go very far.

Returned call to Patricio Trujillo requesting that he pick up his child from the enrichment program. I explained that he would be suspended a minimum of 5 days and an expulsion hearing would be scheduled due to the realistic nature of the weapon. He said while he was waiting for me to call back, he checked and he knows which gun his child brought to school. The child had been playing with it the night before, showing his dad how he could spin it on his finger. Dad thought his student had left it at home and had no idea he did or would bring it to school. Dad explained that he is teaching his son respect for the equipment and seriousness of gun safety, thus why the child had the trainer gun.

My next contact was to the enrichment teacher notifying her that the child would be picked up by father. The class was out on a nature trail on base, which is where father met them to collect his child. Father elected to tell Mrs. Garcia what had taken place.

I called Tara Aroz and she reiterated what I learned from Jennifer Bender in the first call.

I called Audrey Bender and she reiterated what I learned from Jennifer Bender in the first call. She said the 1<sup>st</sup> grade students heard the older boys talking about the gun. Audrey never saw Giovanni remove the gun from his backpack, but she did see the other boys gathered around the backpack. Audrey gave me the names of two boys she saw at the backpack as they walked.

I checked back in with Craig Guensler to update information and next steps.

I called Beale Security Forces B Dock to make the report of what had occurred at school today.

My next contact was to the two families that Audrey identified as seeing in the backpack. I left a message for the parent of Sawyer Judge and spoke directly to the mother more Levi Parker Perez.

I called Giovanni's teacher, Shane Merchant, to ask he if knew of heard of anything about the gun in school today. I assumed he had not, as he would have notified me immediately, but I called to inquire to be completely clear and sure. Shane was very surprised about Giovanni bringing this to school and confirmed he had not heard or seen anything about the gun.

I collaborated with Angela Gouker, principal of Bear River School, as she had recently sent out a notice with similar content. I then wrote our school statement about the gun at school and emailed it to all Lone Tree School and Wheatland Charter Academy parents. I also emailed it to all school staff, including our district office, our site preschool staff, our Beale liaison (Annette Goodly) and our Beale AFB board representative (Col Hanson). Further, I posted the statement on our school Facebook page.

All of today's investigation calls and notifications were complete by 4:33 p.m. on 10/29/2025.

On the morning of 10/30/2025, I received a call from Craig regarding the steps of the hearing.

I called Patricio to inform him of the hearing process. We made an appointment for Patricio to bring Giovanni to my office to meet at dismissal to review the suspension form and for me to gather more information from Giovanni. Giovanni told his parents that he brought the gun to school to show his friends who don't often come to his house, as he lives off base.

I received a phone call from Lt. Krueger, from Beale Security Forces who requested that my first call to be SFS in this type of situation. I explained that there was no imminent threat and that I was gathering information from my team as quickly as I could before I notified security forces. I notified Craig and he was comfortable with my process, checklist of gathering information and the timing of me notifying security forces.

Six officers were sent to school to take official statements from Audrey Bender and Tara Aroz. I notified the officers that the parent and child would be at school later in the day for their statements to be collected.

At the parent and student meeting, Giovanni explained that he showed Elijah, Kao and Brian (from his class) after school on the walk to after school program, but stated that he never threatened anyone and never took it out of his backpack. Giovanni apologized for bringing the gun to school.

Parent and child packed up all of Giovanni's toy guns from the home during this day. Father confirmed that all live weapons are in a safe in the family home, to which student does not have access. Father explained that he is retired Air Force and a contractor on base. He explained that he has experience from military weapon management to the extent that it was part of his job while active duty. He stated that he gave his child the trainer gun to teach him gun safety at home.

Father took photos of the gun. I told father that I will bring the gun to the expulsion hearing. He asked when the hearing will be and I told him that the board and superintendent must coordinate and schedule. The superintendent will notify father of the expulsion date and the child will be suspended until the hearing. I explained that the suspension is highly likely to be extended beyond the 5 days to get to the hearing date.

Father requested work to keep his student up to speed from the class. Craig Guensler approved this, but it will not count towards independent study credit. Shane Merchant provided work for the parent to pick up.

Security forces officers arrived and took a statement from Patricio Trujillo.

**Conclusion:** Giovanni brought a visually realistic gun to school, kept it in his backpack for the day and then spoke to peers about the gun, showing the gun inside his backpack.

**Recommendation:** I, Jodie Jacklett, recommend that Giovanni Trujillo be allowed to return to school on a behavior agreement. Giovanni has attended Lone Tree School since 2021-2022 as a transitional kindergarten student. I have not seen Giovanni in my office for behavior concerns prior to this gun coming to school. His attendance and grades have been positive throughout his enrollment to Lone Tree School.