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# Hazing Investigation Focuses on 6 Players

## Superintendent: 'We Have Serious Matter'

**By Phil Parker, Vic Vela and Raam Wong Journal Staff Writers**

A State Police captain said Tuesday the investigation into an alleged hazing incident last week that has included allegations of sodomy involving members of the Robertson High School football team is focused on six possible suspects.

Capt. Robert Shilling said he believes the boys being targeted in the investigation are the same six players who were suspended from the Cardinals team last week.

On Monday, Shilling said as many as 12 boys may have been involved. Shilling also said Monday the number of alleged victims may have been as many as eight, but he now says police believe there were five or six victims.

Meanwhile, the district's superintendent said Tuesday that allegations of hazing and rape by Robertson football players appear more credible than previously believed.

Las Vegas City Schools Superintendent Rick Romero had said last week he believed the allegation that students were sodomized did not appear to be true. But Romero said Tuesday he's heard numerous accounts about what allegedly happened and now believes the story is "mostly true."

"From what I'm hearing, there's a lot more we need to be concerned about," Romero said. "We have a very serious matter on our hands."

Romero said around six students may have been assaulted with a broom handle. Most of them were at school Monday, he said, while the rest were expected to return soon.

State Police agents met with the District Attorney's Office in Las Vegas Tuesday, where they discussed their findings in the case thus far.

Shilling said agents will "reinterview" victims, suspects and other key people involved in the investigation and will begin submitting case files to the D.A.'s Office as early as next week.

Tuesday night, the Las Vegas City Schools Board of Education went behind closed doors to discuss the allegations. The board members held an executive session for about an hour at the beginning of their regular meeting. When they emerged, the 15 or so community members in attendance were introduced to Ramon Vigil, a partner at the Cuddy Law Firm in Albuquerque.

Vigil said he had been hired by the school district "to advise them with regard to their role if or when someone pursues litigation."

"There are serious allegations, and we need to find out if they're true," he said. "We need to find out and then handle any litigation."

Vigil said he advised the board members not to communicate with Robertson staff members or parents on the allegations because any member who does so would have to excuse himself from any appeals process.