

# Gate sits on school property

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LIVE OAK — One issue has been settled in the Greengate fence dispute: the loved-hated gate is on Green Acres Elementary School property, not the private Spencer Court.

"It's absolutely, positively on our property," announced Dale Thurston, Live Oak School District business manager, after surveyors finished their work Thursday.

That doesn't mean the gate will come down, however. Thurston said he will recommend to school trustees that it stay, but remain unlocked during school hours, at least until residents of Spencer Court and school officials reach agreement.

A meeting toward that end is scheduled to be held Tuesday evening, he added.

The neighborhood furor over the gate erupted after a Spencer Court resident put up a gate and lock to keep school children from using the road as a shortcut to the school.

The resident maintained that kids using the shortcut have vandalized his property, teased his dog and stolen things from his yard.

However, erection of the gate incensed parents, who maintain that the Spencer Court shortcut is the



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Green Acres Principal David Paine says his kids aren't responsible for Spencer Court vandalism.

safest route for their kids to get to school.

County sheriff's deputies were called on Wednesday after a shouting match erupted between parents and a resident of the road. The shouting occurred after two children were locked outside the school grounds.

Thursday the gate was unlocked, but a large dog was tied up in front of the drive in the morning, said Principal David Paine.

Paine maintained that the problems cited by Spencer Court residents were not the result of elementary school children, who use the shortcut when parents and a

school crossing guard are present.

He and Thurston agreed, however, that a compromise might be to lock the gate at night.

That would be acceptable, if the gate is left open during the weekends, said Robyn Burros, a parent who has passed petitions in opposition to the gate.