

12/21/07

# FORT ROSS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## GRAND JURY

DEC 21 2007

## RECEIVED

December 10, 2007

Sonoma County Grand Jury  
PO Box 5109  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Dear Grand Jury Members:

I am updating the information sent to you in my letter of September 11, 2007 concerning the Final Report of the Sonoma County Grand Jury, 2006-2007.

### Sonoma County Grand Jury Final Report (June 28, 2007):

Responses to Recommendations:

Responses to **R1, R5, R6, R7, R8, R9, R11, R13, R14 and R15**: The responses remain the same as the letter of September 11, 2007. The district agrees with these recommendations and is following the intent of these recommendations. Please refer to the attached copy of the September 11, 2007 letter.

**R4. School districts should consider changing their policies to require successful employee applicants to pay for their own fingerprinting and background responses from DOJ and FBI.**

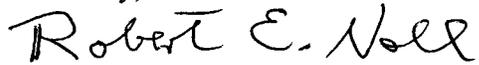
The district will continue to pay for the fingerprinting of volunteers. The district will follow the guidelines proposed by the Sonoma County Office of Education.

**R10. School districts should require fingerprinting for all adults (paid and volunteer) involved in athletic programs, overnight field trips, off-campus field trips, and any school sponsored student activity that occurs outside of the normal school day or hours.**

The district has drafted both a policy and administrative regulations that are aligned to the recommendations of the Sonoma County Office of Education. These regulations have

been on the agenda and discussed at the October, November and December Board meetings. The Board will adopt these regulations following further input from the School Site Council and the Parents Club. A copy of the proposed regulations is included with this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Noll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" at the beginning.

Robert E, Noll  
Superintendent/Principal

Fort Ross Elementary District  
30600 Seaview Road  
Cazadero, CA 95421

GRAND JURY

September 11, 2007

DEC 21 2007

Sonoma County Grand Jury  
PO Box 5109  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

RECEIVED

Dear Grand Jury Members:

I am responding to the recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Sonoma County Grand Jury, 2006-2007.

**Sonoma County Grand Jury Final Report (June 28, 2007)**

Responses to Recommendations:

**R1. Each public school district in Sonoma County should have at least one employee who is trained and authorized to access DOJ website within an official and specified schedule.....**

Fort Ross School agrees with this recommendation and will implement it during the first trimester of the current school year.

**R4. School districts should consider changing their policies to require successful employee applicants to pay for their own fingerprinting and background responses from DOJ and FBI.**

In the future, Fort Ross School will consider requiring successful candidates to pay for their own fingerprinting and background responses from DOJ and FBI. As the district is small, the fingerprinting requirement does not affect the district's budget greatly.

**R5. School districts should amend their policies, if needed, to allow for volunteers names to be public information and readily available so that a greater scrutiny is provided.**

Fort Ross School agrees with this recommendation. Fort Ross School does not have a policy prohibiting volunteers' names from being made public. The superintendent/principal will submit a list of volunteers' names to the Board of Trustees during each trimester.

**R6. Schools should routinely check out names of adult volunteers on Megan's Law website.....**

Fort Ross School agrees with this recommendation and will implement it during the first trimester of the current school year.

**R7. School districts should request criminal activity record from the Sonoma County Superior Courts Records Division on any adult wanting to volunteer with students. This service is available at not cost to a district.**

Fort Ross School agrees with this recommendation and will implement it during the first trimester of the current school year.

**R8. School districts should, individually or collectively, request that the DOJ implement a system to confirm school district receipt of Notices of Subsequent Arrest.**

Fort Ross School agrees to request that the DOJ implement a system to confirm the school district's receipt of the Notices.

**R9. School districts should request FBI responses on all classified employees and volunteers that they do a DOJ response regardless of the time they have lived in California.**

Fort Ross School agrees with this recommendation. However, the district contends that the State should provide funding for this process.

**R10. School districts should require fingerprinting for all adults (paid and volunteer) involved in athletic programs, overnight field trips, off-campus field trips, and any school sponsored student activity that occurs outside of the normal school day or hours.**

Fort Ross School disagrees with the recommendation. The community has many parents and community members involved in the school program. This is necessary in order for the school to be able to provide extra-curricular activities and extended learning opportunities for the students. This recommendation will be discussed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees during the first trimester of the current year. The district does not agree that all volunteers who participate in off-campus field trips should be fingerprinted. Volunteers for activities on campus, who are under line-of-sight supervision by a school employee, will not require fingerprinting.

**R11. School districts should implement provisions of Education Code Sections 33193 and 45125.2 requiring that certain independent contractors and employees of contractors undergo fingerprinting and background checks.**

Fort Ross School agrees with this recommendation. The Board of Trustees will discuss the policy during the first trimester of the current school year and update its policy in this regard.

**R13. School districts should not allow new employees to begin work until all pre-employment requirements are met.**

Fort Ross School agrees with this recommendation. This has been the practice of the school for many years.

**R14. The S.O. should make available to all school districts information on how to access services available to them through the S.O. that would aid districts in**