

EDUCATION



RESPONSES

2011-2012 Sonoma County Grand Jury Review of Responses to the School Consolidation Report

The 2011-2012 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury has reviewed the school consolidation report from the previous year's Grand Jury Final Report titled "Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option." We have also reviewed the responses to this report that we received from 38 of the county's 40 school districts, eight of the nine cities and town councils, the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Schools, the Sonoma County Board of Education, and the Sonoma County Committee on School District Organization (SCCSDO).

Two school districts and one city did not respond on time. In addition, two of the responses were considered incomplete (i.e., responders did not answer the questions asked). Among those that did respond, we found a wide spectrum of agreement, disagreement, and discussion on the nine recommendations (the last of which was a ten-part questionnaire for each school district) and 19 findings.

In general, the 2010-2011 Grand Jury investigation produced statistics that should be useful to school administrators. A review of the raw data (attached to this summary) is necessary for that purpose since no two districts can be easily compared.

We would like to point out that, based on the answers to Recommendation 9a, 23 school districts are willing to invite "a SCOE-funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation." These districts are:

Cinnabar, Cloverdale Unified, Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified, Forestville Union, Fort Ross, Geyserville Unified, Guerneville, Healdsburg Unified, Kashia, Kenwood, Mark West Union, Monte Rio Union, Montgomery Elementary, Old Adobe Union, Petaluma City Elementary, Petaluma Joint Union High, Piner-Olivet Union, Rincon-Valley Union, Roseland, Sebastopol Union, Twin Hills Union, Wilmar Union and Windsor Unified.

Santa Rosa City School District sent letters to the Board Presidents and Superintendents of partner elementary districts to determine interest in participating jointly in such a study. To date, the Santa Rosa City School Board has not formally voted on this recommendation.

It should be noted that some of the districts that declined a study by the SCCSDO said that they were already consolidated.

We urge the County Board of Supervisors, per Education Code sections 35720-35724, to

request that the SCCSDO (part of SCOE) initiate such a study for at least those school districts that indicated a willingness to cooperate with a study. Issues are complex and further study is necessary.

Whether or not a district is willing to study the possibility of consolidation appears to rest on the degree to which consolidation is perceived to be effective. Factors include but are not limited to:

- 1) Is the district in a rural or urban area?
- 2) Is the district in an affluent or low-income area?
- 3) Is the district funded through local taxes or by the state?
- 4) Does the district serve a relatively small student population or a large one?
- 5) Does the district serve a large or small population of students with limited English?

The Grand Jury commends the Sonoma County Board of Education in already following the recommendation to reduce the number of trustees from seven to five. This saves costs and aligns with the makeup of the County Board of Supervisors.



Alexander Valley Union School District

BOB RAINES
SUPERINTENDENT-PRINCIPAL

Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

GRAND JURY
OCT 04 2011

RECEIVED

Alexander Valley Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District disagrees partially with the finding. The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.)

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District disagrees partially with the finding. We have not experienced any difficulties with record transfers between elementary schools in our area. We hand deliver cumulative records of our sixth graders to the local junior high schools. Record transfers from school outside of Sonoma County have been delayed at times.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District disagrees wholly with the finding. Statistical data from all grade levels are made available to parents each fall. Additionally, quarterly benchmark assessment results for each grade level are shared with the public every two months during the school year.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District disagrees with the finding. Given the historic inability of the State of California to adequately and consistently fund public education, the fact that so few districts are unable to project positive ending balances (after accounting for the mandated reserve for economic uncertainty) is remarkable. Many school districts are in financial distress, certainly, but to characterize them as failing is to shift the responsibility away from the State of California. The Alexander Valley Union School District has managed its fiscal resources carefully and frugally, and has maintained strong end of the year fund balances, despite reductions in state funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The cost of such a study would divert necessary funds from supporting services for children to a process that has some scattered political support, but one that has not been proven, in previous Sonoma County studies, to provide benefit for students or districts.

Recommendation 9

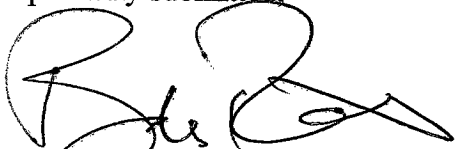
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors, we decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2011/2012 enrollment is 128. Enrollment for 2010/2011 was 128.
- c. We are currently a K-6 elementary school district.

- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: \$812,056 when our local property taxes are compared to the revenue limit that would be generated by students who are district residents, or \$369,420 when our local property taxes are compared to the revenue limit that would be generated by all students attending school in the Alexander Valley Union School District.
- e. We currently have enrolled 77 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 65 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 3 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. We do not have records that indicate the number of students who lived in the district but attended school in other districts five years ago.
- g. There are currently no dependent or independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were no charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district.
- i. We currently have plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that receive our students.
- j. We currently have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: September 21, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Alexander Valley Union School District

Date: September 22, 2011



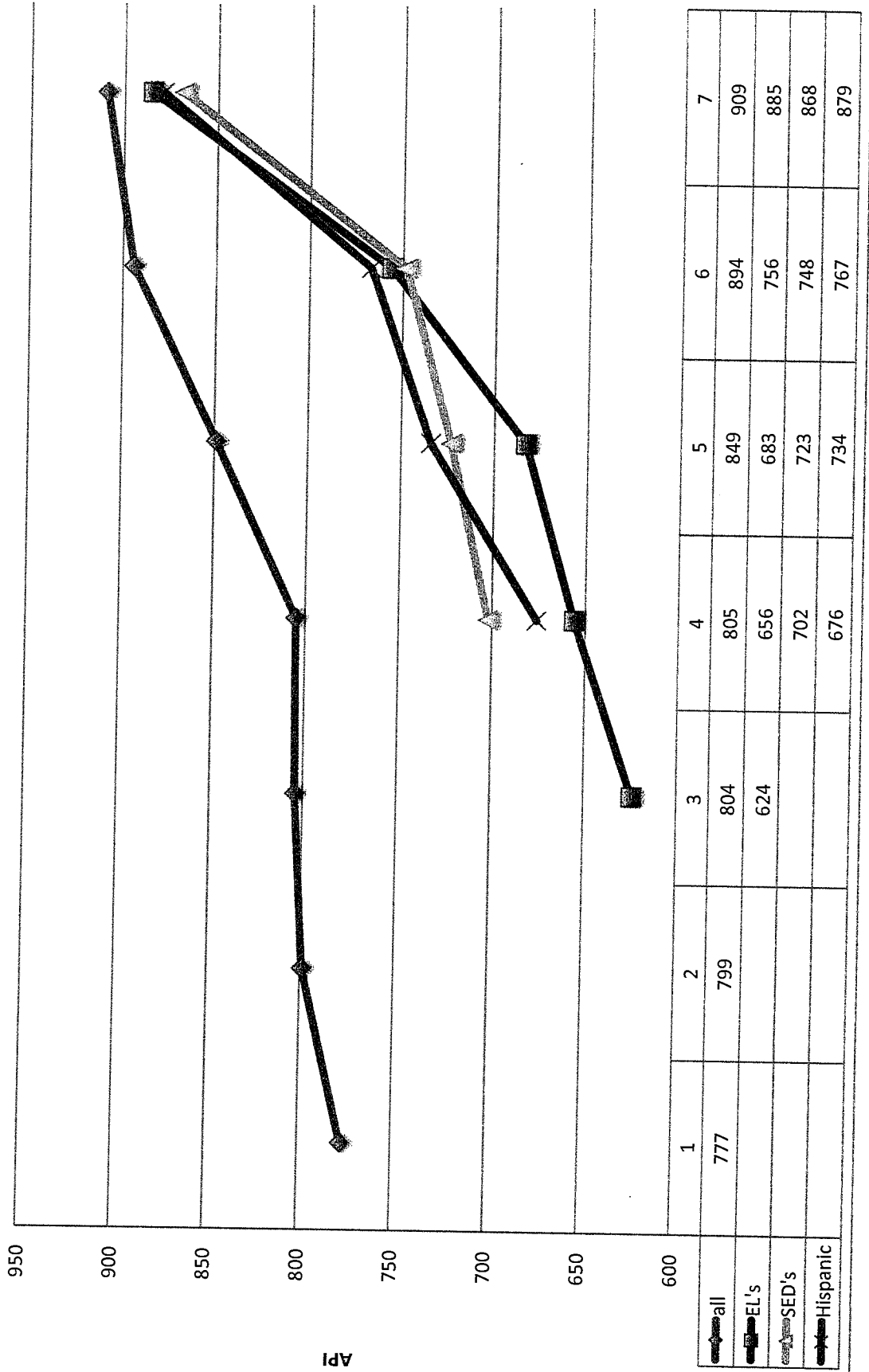
Alexander Valley Union School District

BOB RAINES
SUPERINTENDENT-PRINCIPAL

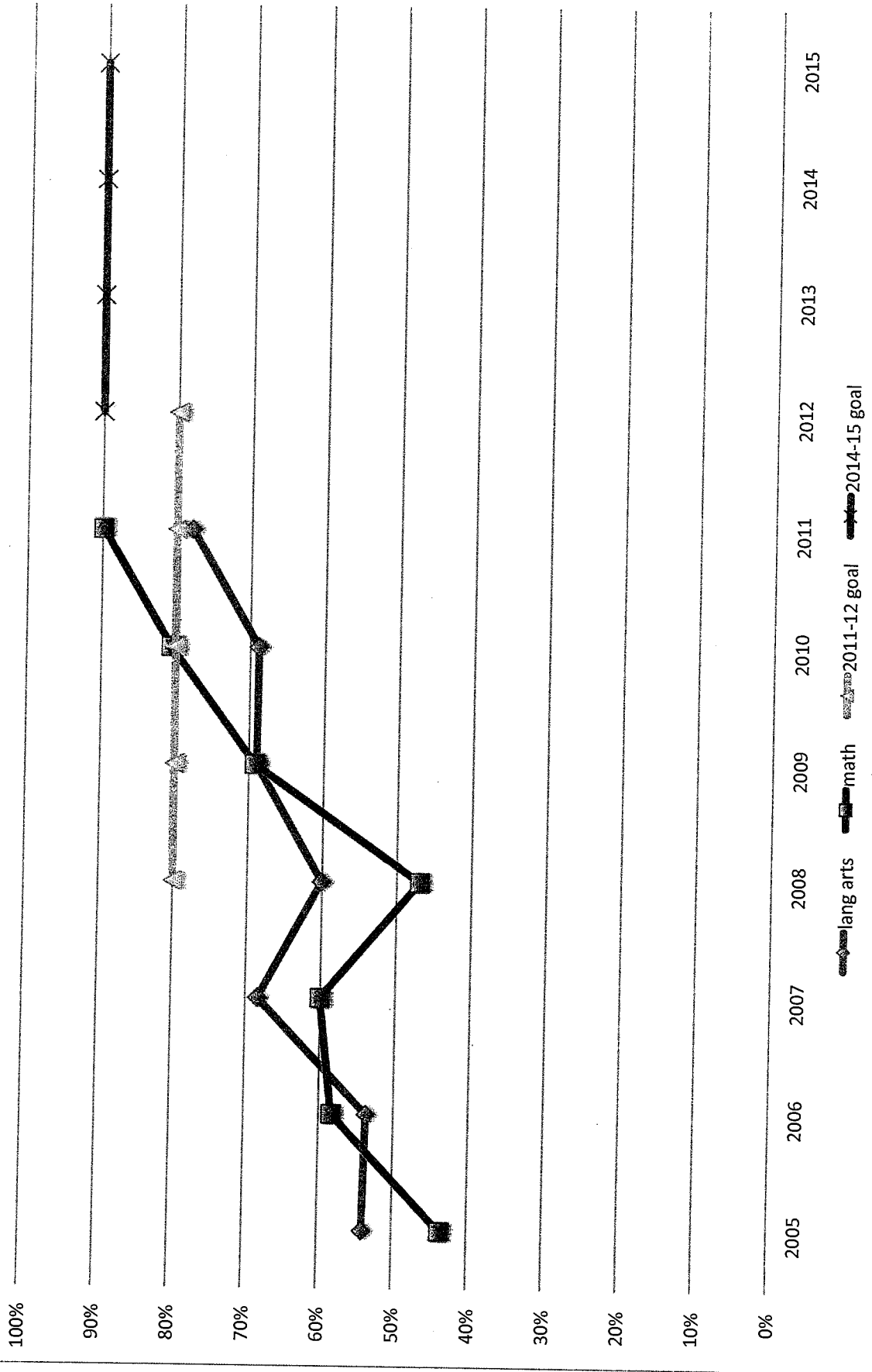
Addendum to the Response to the Sonoma County Grand Jury Report, "Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option."

The attached reports were distributed to Alexander Valley Union School District families this year, and are typical of reports sent to families every quarter.

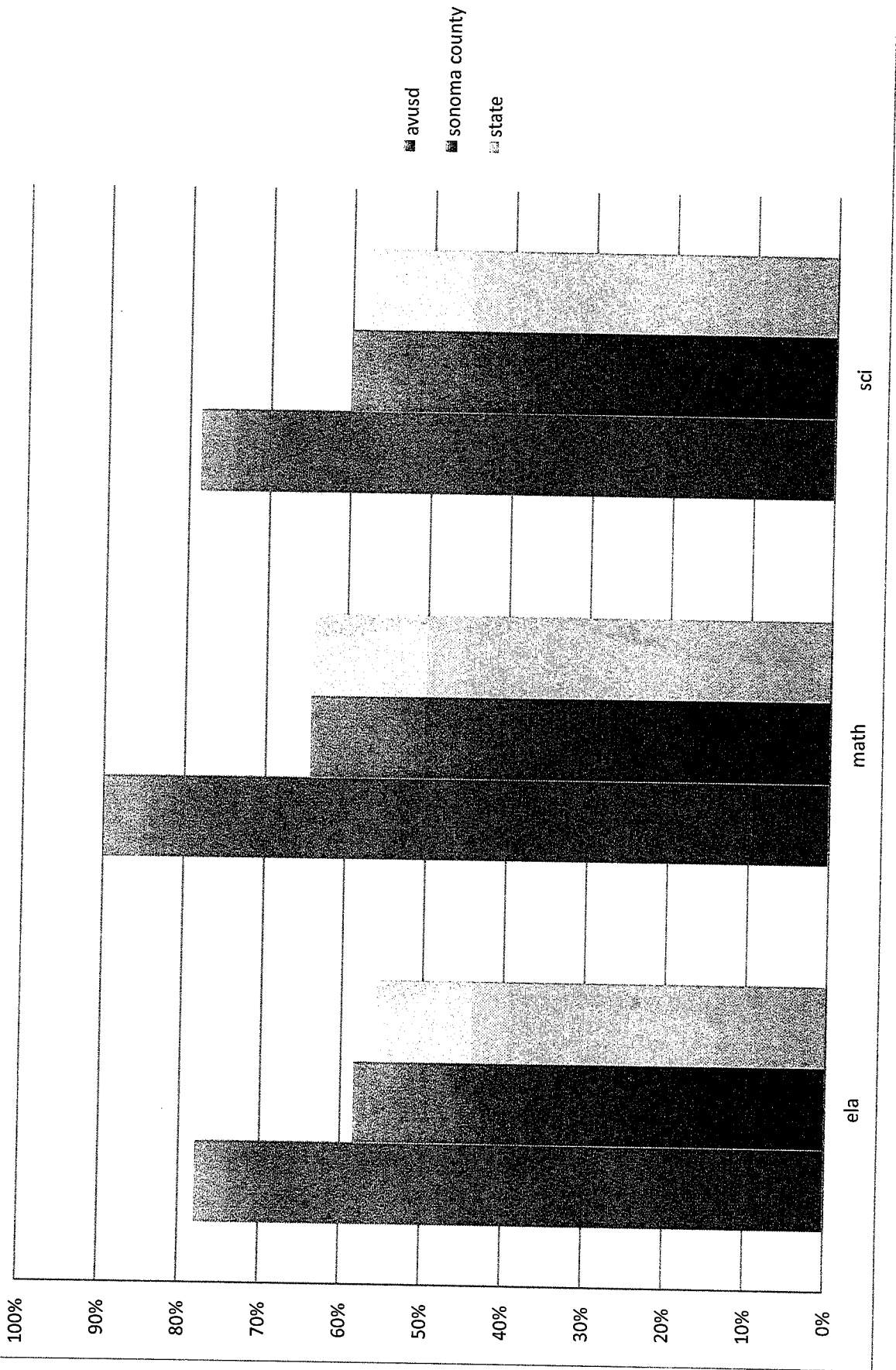
Academic Performance Index for Alexander Valley School 2005-2011



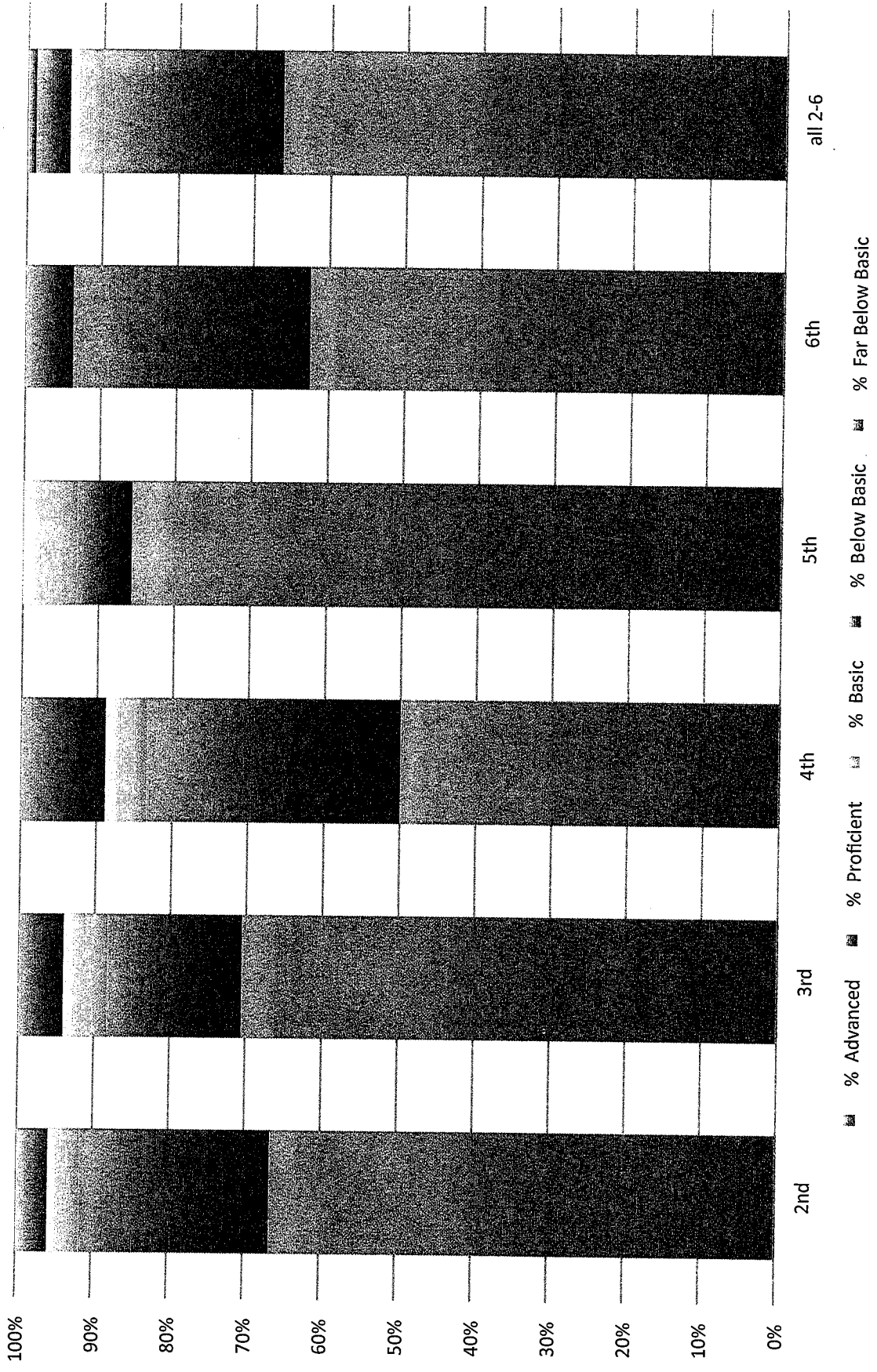
% of Students Advanced or Proficient on the California Standards Test



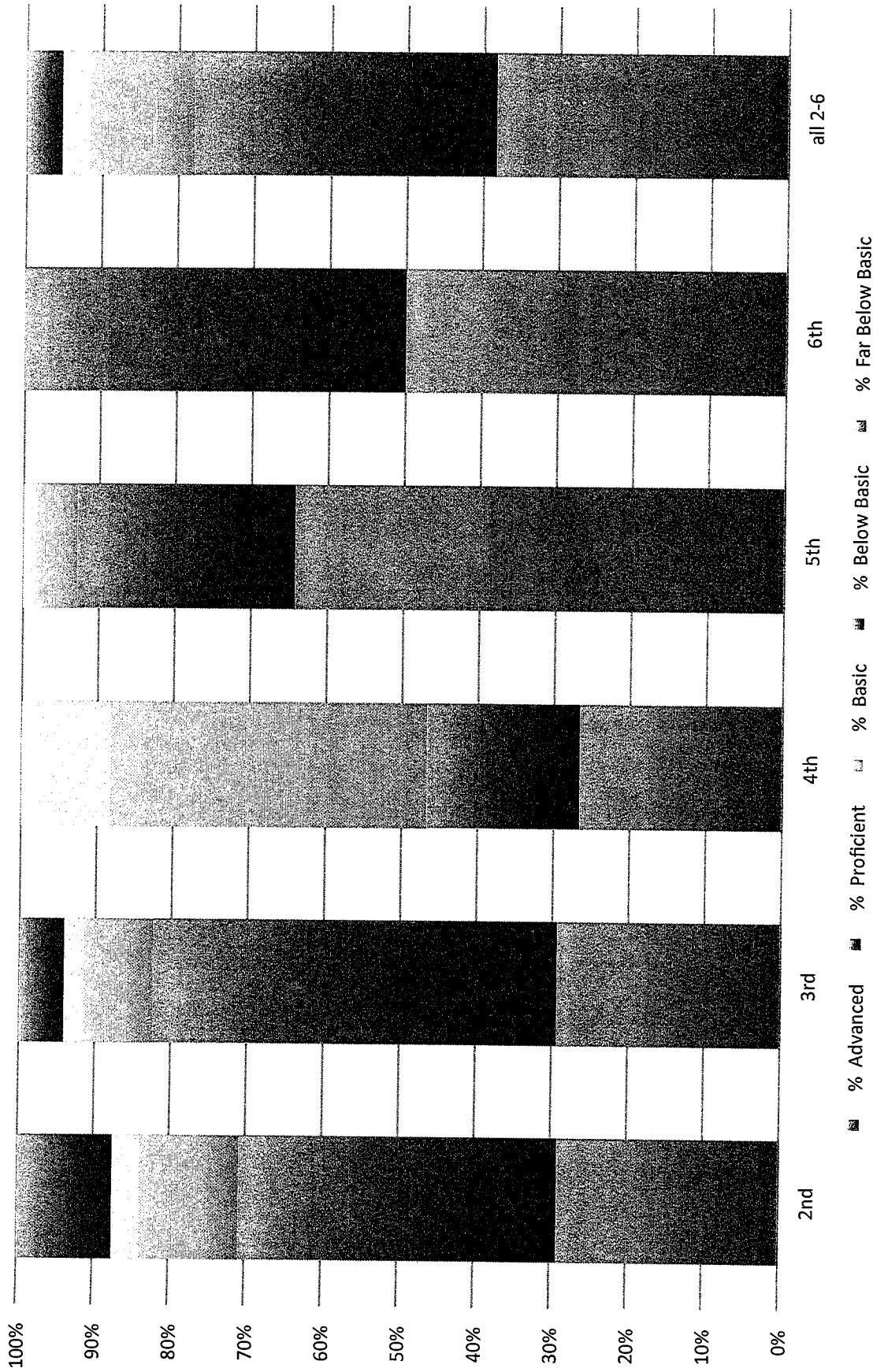
2011 CST Comparison



2011 CST Math Summary



2011 ELA CST Summary



AUG 22 2011

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge

Date: 8/22/11

**Bellevue Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

FILED

AUG 22 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Bellevue Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. State adopted curriculum is aligned to State adopted standards, which ensure an articulated core curriculum regardless of district or geographic location.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Records transfers routinely take less than one week to occur among the Santa Rosa area school districts.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: School-based data is reported annually on our website through the School Accountability Report Card process.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The Bellevue Union School District has maintained and slightly increased its reserves for economic uncertainties over the prior three years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

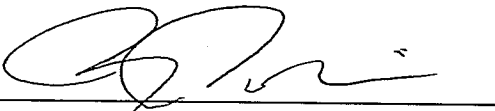
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. **Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 1,723. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1,762.**
- c. **We are currently a K-12 unified school district.** Yes. No. **If no, our current structure is K-6.**
- d. **We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District.** Yes. No. **As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: N/A**
- e. **We currently have enrolled 112 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 13 students living outside district boundaries.**

- f. We currently have 679 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 598
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: August 16, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Date: August 16, 2011

Tony Roehrick, Ed.D., Superintendent
Bellevue Union School District

Bennett Valley Union School District's
Response to the 2010-11 Sonoma County Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option:
The Journey Begins with One Step

GRAND JURY
SEP 26 2011
RECEIVED

The Bennett Valley Union School District (hereinafter "the district") responds to the above referenced report as set forth below. The District's response covers the period commencing with the 2006-7 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "the period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the Bennett Valley Union School District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

RESPONSE TO REQUIRED FINDINGS

We agree with the findings numbered: F5

We disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F3, F7, F11, F16, F17, F19

Explanation of the reasons for disputed findings:

Finding 3

School Districts are closing schools:

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any school in the Bennett Valley Union School District since 1993.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with this finding. In the five-year period, the enrollment in the Bennett Valley Union School District has not declined. The District's enrollment for 2011-12 is slightly higher than in 2010-11.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools and/or move their children out of failing schools:

The District disagrees wholly or partially with this finding. Parents are not able to "take over" a school that has less than required student achievement. Parents may move their children out of such schools if they choose. The Bennett Valley Union School District supports a parent's right to choose the school district for their child and enjoys a robust interdistrict attendance.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE but districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with this finding. The County Office does not provide teacher grade level performance information. The Bennett Valley Union School District disseminates data by grade level, school, and subgroup. Individual teacher data on one measure is unrevealing and can be misleading. At this time, the state testing system does not have a valid way to offer statistically valid multi-year data on individual teachers due to the way the test is changed each year. In Bennett Valley, drawing conclusions on individual teachers from state test scores is complicated by the significant amount of teaming in the grade level. We analyze the scores fully and offer a comparison between the number of students who score at each proficiency band entering and exiting the class is done, not only on state tests, but also on our district assessments, providing information that is used internally by teachers and administrators to assist individual students and to make programmatic improvements.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with this finding. The Bennett Valley Union School District is not failing financially and is financially solvent with a very lean, yet effective administrative structure. (Please see California Watch article attached.)

We are lean and efficient and work with other districts and the County to eliminate duplicative costs, increase efficiencies and take advantage of economies of scale in the areas in which it makes sense through County group purchase arrangements and numerous shared services agreements in such areas as home to school transportation, special education services for severely handicapped pupils, food services, insurance, technology infrastructure, professional development, and legal services.

With several years of State budget cuts, 13 California districts were in negative certification at Second Interim 2010-11. Three of those are in Sonoma County. The three districts, Cloverdale, Cotati-Rohnert Park, and Healdsburg are all K-12 unified districts and are not among the smaller districts in the County. There were 126 districts in the state that were in qualified status at Second Interim. Of these, 3 were in Sonoma County—Geyserville, Sebastopol Union and West Sonoma High School District—two of the three are unified. Six out of 40 districts in the county were in negative or qualified status at Second Interim. Two of the largest districts in the state, LA Unified (the second largest district in the country), and Oakland Unified were both in qualified status at Second Interim. (Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team (FCMAT) Report Included). The data suggest that there is no

Bennett Valley, nor would consolidation offer even any significant net fiscal incentive.

Our primary mission is to work relentlessly to continue to improve student achievement and educational experiences for children. We are successful at that mission. As a small district, we are able to respond to changing student needs and other challenges quickly and effectively. We routinely consider reasonable reform efforts, including reorganization, when it will better serve the children and constituency we have been elected to represent.

Fiscally, even without a study, we already understand the very modest amount of additional revenue limit funding our students could generate as part of a unified district. We also can project many of the additional costs involved in such a change, both before and after the required elections.

We have not seen a study that suggests an "ideal" district enrollment. There are effective districts of all sizes. Many parents value and choose smaller schools. Some are even creating smaller schools via the charter school movement. Having the variety of district sizes offers parents a choice.

Our district is economical with its very lean administrative overhead and low per pupil expenditure rate. Its rich history of student success continues evidenced by a 2011 API of 890.

Our enrollment is not in decline. Our community is very supportive of our schools and recently passed a General Obligation Bond.

We must serve the constituency we have been elected to represent. We do not believe that the parents whose students we serve collectively, nor the district residents who moved to Bennett Valley for the schools would want us to consolidate. Therefore, there is no reason to undergo the additional expense of extending a study to Bennett Valley at this time.

R9: All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions that will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a) After hearing public comments and by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees, we decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation as long as all options are considered including creating K-8 and 9-12 districts or smaller K-12 districts.

The District believes that this recommendation is too vague to generate fruitful information as stated. Consolidation studies are between two or more specific districts with myriad factors analyzed.

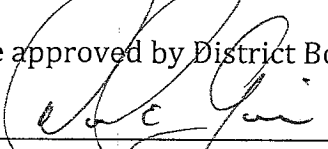
and reviews such as the Consolidated Application, Federal Program Monitoring, Technology Plans, Single Plan for Student Achievement, School Accountability Report Card, No Child Left Behind Local Educational Agency Plan. The Sonoma County SELPA helps districts remain in compliance with special education laws, programs and services, and required reviews.

In closing: Consolidation may be a helpful strategy in some situations. We are not against it where it makes sense as long as providing effective, high quality instruction to students as its core purpose. Consolidation is not a panacea to the fiscal ills threatening to harm education and its effects are not immediate. Even in Monte Rio and Guerneville, two districts that voted to consolidate and shared a superintendent for years, consolidation turned out not to be implemented because the combined district would have received less money since Monte Rio would no longer enjoy its Basic Aid status. School funding is not intuitive and is very complex.

The state already rewards smallness by continuing Basic Aid formulas and in the form of Charter Schools by giving them lucrative planning grants and a higher revenue limit than average revenue limit districts. Some people leave large districts to go to smaller districts. Some even create charter schools in order to leave larger school districts, thereby creating more, rather than fewer, local educational agencies.

Sharing services does save money and we have worked very hard to exact savings by sharing services wherever programmatically and financial advantageous.

Date approved by District Board: September 14, 2011



David Gouin, Board President
Bennett Valley Union School District Board of Trustees



Sue Field, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Attachments:

California Watch

Fiscal Crisis Management and Assistance Team information—Second Interim 2011

Sebastopol/Twin Hills Consolidation Study 2008

National Education Policy Center: Consolidation of Schools and Districts February 2011

Academic Leadership: Rural School District Consolidation Spring 2006

Goldwater Institute: Competition or Consolidation? The School District Consolidation Debate

Revisited 2004

SEP 27 2011

Cinnabar Elementary School District

286 Skillman Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952

Approved: _____
Date: _____
Superior Court Judge

From: Stephen P. Collins, Interim Superintendent
To: Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Subject: School District Consolidation/Unification
Date: July 5, 2011

FILED

SEP 27 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY DEPUTY CLERK

The Grand Jury has required that each school district in the County respond to two Recommendations (R3 and R9) and to seven Findings (F3, F5, F7, F11, F16, F17, and F19).

The Cinnabar School District responses are as follows:

R3 There are other elements besides educational and financial benefits which come into play when districts consider unification, including community pride in their district, traditions which are peculiar to each school, the ability to make changes without going through a maze of hierarchy, proximity to the local school, fear of losing a community institution, and perhaps many others.

It should be noted that on the 2009-2010 District Financial Reporting Status that only one or two (really) small schools had achieved negative or qualified fiscal status in their 2nd interim financial report. It appears that most small schools are more fiscally sound than several larger districts.

Still, with declining enrollment and California's troublesome budget, at least an initial, but comprehensive, fact finding study is a sensible move.

- R9 a) Hold the public hearing and agree to a funded study, the results of which do not necessarily dictate local Boards' actions.
- b) Current enrollment at P2 was 178 in 2010-2011 and 186 in 2009-2010.
- c) Cinnabar is a K-6 District, with grades 1 through 6 designated as a charter school.
- d) Cinnabar is not a Basic Aid District.
- e) Current interdistrict students "IN" enrolled in Cinnabar number 59. Five years ago, we received 94 "IN" interdistrict students.

- f) Current interdistrict students “OUT” number 59. We had 33 interdistrict students “OUT” in 2005-2006 school year.
- g) Cinnabar will have one dependent charter school at the 1st – 6th grade level in 2011-2012. There were no charter schools within this District five years ago.
- h) Cinnabar’s office staff is diligent in both requesting and sending student files when students arrive or leave our district.
- i) Our articulated curriculum with Petaluma junior high schools is limited to text books, which are approved by the California Department of Education.
- j) Cinnabar is involved in several consortiums with SCOE, RESIG, South County Schools (Special Education) and with other small (feeder) schools in the Petaluma area.

F3 Cinnabar District is located both in the City of Petaluma and in Sonoma County. Neither the City nor the County has actively sought to approve housing projects which would re-populate our District with a much-needed replenished resource – children.

Our student population consists of 57% English Language Learners and 80% low income families. Our (STAR) test scores are lower than other small districts in great part because our students enter school at a significantly lower preparedness level than other schools whose students are from higher wealth, more-educated families and who speak the language they are tested in. Hence, the latter group of students who do reside in our District often choose to move out of our District which further contributes to lower test scores.

F5 Yes, State funding has decreased.

F7 The Open Enrollment Act has led to ethnically and academically segregated schools and negatively impacts a struggling school’s potential for higher test scores. Additionally, schools rarely “fail”; some simply have clientele who have greater distances to travel for success or who have desires/careers other than academics in their future.

F11 Articulated curriculum only represents spiraled steps to learn the increasingly difficult content of specific subject areas. Unfortunately, learners advance through subject matters not on the basis of their age, but based upon their own individual brain prowess, interest, support at school and home, language ability, and physical abilities.

F16 The system to transfer student records is not problematic at Cinnabar School.

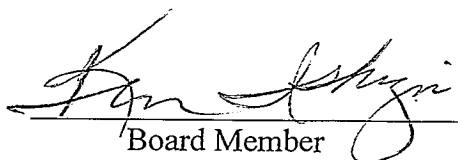
F17 Measuring a teacher's grade level performance is dependent upon several variables including parent support; instructional materials; administrative and Board support; the make-up of the class (low achievers, high achievers, heterogeneous group, legally disabled students, etc.).

It is much more realistic to determine whether a teacher has demonstrated "effectiveness" in leading each student toward gains in their academic/social/behavioral growth from the beginning of the school year to the end of that year. Public schools are held responsible by our State laws to teach the "whole" child and yet measure public schools only on the basis of test scores.

F19 As noted in our R3 response, the assumption that creating larger or unified school districts will result in both fiscal and programmatic gains is not necessarily true based upon your own 2009-2010 District Financial Reporting Status which have "negative" or "qualified" certifications and are larger districts.

It is our opinion that school districts are not failing financially but rather that schools are not being funded appropriately by federal, state, and local sources to provide for the cost of programs/services which are required by governmental legislation. An obvious example is the special education services which are mandated but funded primarily through general education dollars. Other examples include: mandated program costs which are seriously under-funded; limited transportation and food service programs; health and safety program costs; employee insurance costs; negotiated rights.

These programs are important for our public school. They are required but not adequately funded.


Board Member

Approved: M
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/29/11

**Cloverdale Unified School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

FILED

SEP 29 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Cloverdale Unified School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of 1 school(s) in the Five-Year Period.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 1389. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1458.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is _____.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 37 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 26 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 110 students living inside district boundaries living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year?

- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: September 21, 2011

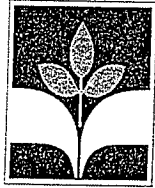
Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Frandsen

Date: 9/23/11

Cloverdale Unified
School District

Approved: *[Signature]*
Superior Court Judge
Date: *9/16/11*



COTATI-ROHNERT PARK
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPERINTENDENT
Learning for a Lifetime

SEP 16 2011

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive, Room 106J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FILED

SEP 16 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY CLERK

Re: Response to 2011 Civil Grand Jury Report
Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins With One Step

Honorable Judge Nadler:

Pursuant to direction from the 2011 Civil Grand Jury, Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District submits the following response to the specified findings and recommendations:

Finding 3 – School districts are closing schools. Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining, and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

Answer: We agree.

Finding 5 – State funding has decreased in California.

Answer: We agree.

Finding 7 – Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350).

Answer: We acknowledge that both state and federal law included provisions regarding parental roles failing schools.

Finding 11 – Articulated curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

Answer: We agree.

Finding 16 – Student record transfers from one school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

Answer: Although we disagree with the finding that student record transfers are problematic, we agree there may have been more than one occasion in which records were not transmitted in a timely fashion.

Finding 17 – Parents can get statistical data for a teacher’s grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

Answer: We disagree. We are not aware of Sonoma County Office providing, or being able to provide, teacher grade level performance information.

Finding 19 – Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule of 2010-2011 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

Answer: Without a definition for “failing financially” we cannot agree or disagree. There are districts that have either “qualified” or “negative” budget certifications, but those are based on multi-year projections.

Recommendation 1 – Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSDO study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved through either consolidation or unification.

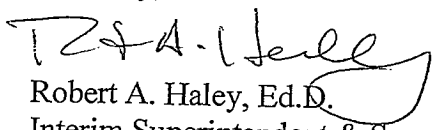
Answer: Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District is K-12.

Recommendation 9 – All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. The Board of Trustees took public comment regarding the Grand Jury Report on August 9, 2011. We are a unified district, but we would cooperate with a SCOE funded study as applicable.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 6,003. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 6,206.
- c. We are a K-12 unified school district.
- d. We are not currently classified as a Basic Aid District.
- e. We currently have enrolled 300 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 330 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 671 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. In 2005/2006 there were 639.
- g. There is currently one independent charter operating in our district. Five years ago there were none.
- h. Yes, we have effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in and out of our district.
- i. We are a unified district.
- j. We have agreements with several local districts to share the cost of food service. We are a member of the West Sonoma County Transportation Agency.

In closing, we want to thank the Grand Jury for an opportunity to provide information during the course of their study and for an opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Haley, Ed.D.

Interim Superintendent & Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Approved:

[Signature]
Superior Court Judge

Date:

9/16/11

**Dunham Elementary School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

SEP 16 2011
FILED

SEP 16 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
[Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

- 2006-2007: 171
- 2007-2008: 176
- 2008-2009: 182
- 2009-2010: 177
- 2010-2011: 184

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Parents are not able to “take over” a school that has less than required student achievement. Parents can move their children out of such schools and into a school with higher achievement scores. The district does not have any failing schools.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. We believe that focusing on grade level standards is the most important factor in ensuring success in high school. By focusing on having all students performing at or above grade level on the standards, we believe students will be prepared for success at whichever Middle School they choose to attend.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The district has not had any problem with the transfer of records within Sonoma County. We have effective protocols in place to facilitate the movement of records. Once a request for records has been made, we typically receive the records within two weeks. If we do not, then we contact the school to make a second request.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher’s grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Parents are not able to get statistical data for a teacher’s grade level performance from SCOE. While it is true that the district does not put out information on grade level performance to teachers, it does disseminate information on the performance of the school.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. While some districts in Sonoma County continue to experience financial distress, none are bankrupt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

X The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9


All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 184. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 177.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. X No. If no, our current structure is K - 5 (Charter) and 6th.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. X Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: The district anticipates receiving basic aide supplement funding this year.
- e. We currently have enrolled 109 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 121 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 6 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 3

- g. There are currently 1 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. X Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or X have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently X have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.


Date approved by District Board:

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 9/15/11

Dunham Elementary School District


Approved: 
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/14/11

**Forestville Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

SEP 12 2011

FILED

SEP 14 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

Forestville Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of 0 school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Partially. Currently, Forestville Union School District is not failing financially.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

- The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.
- The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Forestville will not request a CCSD study.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

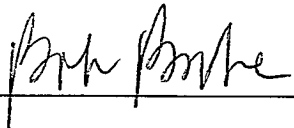
- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 424. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 429.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-8, Union School District.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 97 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 65 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 30 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? It is impossible to ascertain an accurate accounting of all of the students living inside Forestville Union School District boundaries.

Students may attend Charter schools and private schools without notification to the District of residence.

- g. There are currently 1 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 1 dependent and 1 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board:

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 9/9/2011

Forestville Union
School District

AUG 30 2011

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/7/11

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Sonoma County School Consolidation/Unification

Report Date: 6-24-11

Response by: John Markatos Title: Superintendent

FILED

FINDINGS

SEP - 7 2011

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 3, 5, 7, 11, 19
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 3, 16, 17
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 9 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.) procedure in place
- Recommendations numbered 9 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.) pending SCOE funded study
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered 1 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.) (basic aid)

Date: 8/25/11 Signed: [Signature]
Number of pages attached 4

**Fort Ross Elementary School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Fort Ross Elementary School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
- The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
- The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: by school rather than grade level to protect the privacy of parents and students; in a small school, grade level disclosure would identify the particular students.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

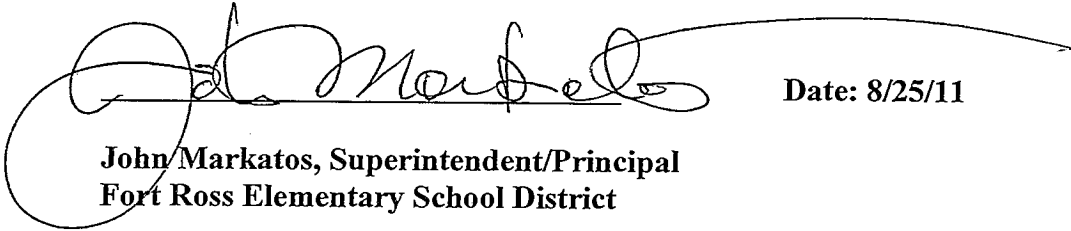
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 30. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 44.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-8.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: additional revenue.
- e. We currently have enrolled 7 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 5 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 5 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 2

- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 1 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: 8/25/11

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 8/25/11

John Markatos, Superintendent/Principal
Fort Ross Elementary School District

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 7/27/11

JUL 27 2011

**Geyserville Unified School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FILED

FINDINGS

JUL 27 2011

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of _____ school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Geyserville has not had a problem with records transfer.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: We do not believe a parent can get a record of a teachers grade level performance from SCOE.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. We believe districts are suffering financially, but not failing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on 4, 2011.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by 4, 2011.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9


All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 252. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 250.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is .
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: Revenue from the property tax.
- e. We currently have enrolled 60 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 28 students living outside district boundaries.

- f. We currently have 45 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 40
- g. There are currently No dependent and No independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were *Nb* dependent and *Nb* independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: July 23, 2011

Respectfully submitted,




Date: July 23, 2011

Linda Colliver, President
Geyserville Unified School District

SEP 27 2011

Gravenstein Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Approved: 
Date: 9/27/11
Superior Court Judge

The Gravenstein Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

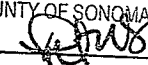
FILED

FINDINGS

SEP 27 2011

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY:  DEPUTY CLERK

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Record transfers from the District are processed promptly upon receipt of valid requests from other school districts.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: Grade level performance is disseminated to parents in the Comprehensive District Plan and on the district website. This information is not disseminated by teacher.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has maintained a positive financial status during the Five-Year Period and projects a positive status through the 2013-14 school year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1.

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. In the last ten years, the District has participated in two studies of possible consolidation/unification. Neither study demonstrated any financial or educational advantages of consolidation/unification to District students. We believe that another study at this time would be a waste of money and resources.

Recommendation 9

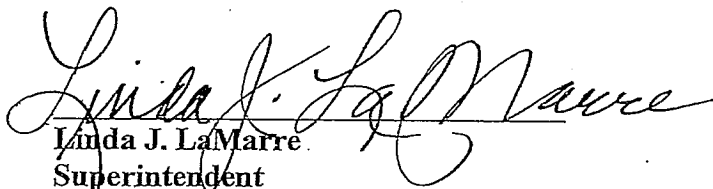
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. **Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 654. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 630.**
- c. **We are currently a K-12 unified school district.** Yes. No. **If no, our current structure is a K-8 elementary school district.**
- d. **We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District.** Yes. No. **As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:**

- e. We currently have enrolled 269 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 140 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 64 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 99
- g. There are currently no dependent and no independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were no dependent and no independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: August 10, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Date: August 10, 2011

Linda J. LaMarre
Superintendent
Gravenstein Union School District

AUG 29 2011

**Guerneville School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge

Date: 8/29/11
FILED

AUG 29 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Guerneville School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of one school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Our school has worked with the High School in the past, however it is not consistent. We used to have Staff Development Days to do these kinds of things and are no longer able to do that.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. We have no problems getting records for/from our students.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on March, 2007 -Our Board did a study with SCOE in the 2006/2007 year to consider consolidation with Monte Rio School.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. **Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 291. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 296.**
- c. **We are currently a K-12 unified school district.** Yes. No. **If no, our current structure is K-8.**
- d. **We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District.** Yes. No. **As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:**
- e. **We currently have enrolled 23 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 10 students living outside district boundaries.**

- f. We currently have 26 students living inside district boundaries living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year?
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: August 9, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

_____ Date: August 9, 2011

Guerneville School District

FILED

SEP 27 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY S. J. [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/27/11

**Harmony Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Harmony Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of A CAMPUS IN 2003/2004 AND CONSOLIDATED TO A K - 8TH PROGRAM ON ONE CAMPUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2004/2005 SCHOOL YEAR. school(s) in the Five-Year Period.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. DISAGREES PARTIALLY

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

- The District agrees with the finding.

See attached

Grand Jury Report

- X Some Sonoma County School Districts are failing due in large part to the failure of the Legislature and state of California to meet their constitutional requirement to fund schools at the mandated Prop 98 level. Consolidation will not fix problems at the state level.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing ~~public~~ public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 223. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 240.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is District K - 8th & District Charter 3rd - 8th.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 61 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 28 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have ----- students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? Because Salmon Creek is a Charter, we do not track this any longer. In 2005/2006 the District had 52 students going to other schools.

- g. There are currently one dependent and one independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and one independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: September 15, 2011

←
Respectfully submitted,

David Wheeler
David Wheeler
Superintendent
Harmony Union School District...

Date: Sept 21, 2011

AUG 19 2011

Approved: AM
Superior Court Judge

Date: 8/24/11

**Healdsburg Unified School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

FILED

AUG 24 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: AKS DEPUTY CLERK

Healdsburg Unified School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of 1 school(s) in the Five-Year Period.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Transfer of records is consistently completed in a timely manner.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The Healdsburg Unified School District is a Basic Aid district serving students in grades K-12 so the recommendation does not apply.

Recommendation 9

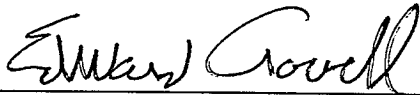
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite **decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.**
- b. **Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 1981. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 2048.**
- c. **We are currently a K-12 unified school district.** **Yes.** **No. If no, our current structure is _____.**
- d. **We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District.** **Yes.** **No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: \$400,000/year plus \$1,200,000 "fair share" contribution**
- e. **We currently have enrolled 127 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 157 students living outside district boundaries.**
- f. **We currently have 185 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 142**

- g. There are currently 1 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: August 10, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Crowell, President, Board of Trustees

Healdsburg Unified School District

School District

Date: 08-16-11

SEP 1 - 2011

Approved: YN
Superior Court Judge

Date: 9/7/11
FILED

Kashia School District's
Response to the Grand Jury's 2010-2011 Report
Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer An Option
The Journey Begins With One Step

SEP - 7 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY CVS DEPUTY CLERK

Kashia School District responds to the above referenced report as set forth below. The District's response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year and ending with the 2010-11 school year, and is based on the facts and circumstances of Kashia Elementary School District in particular rather than Sonoma County Schools in general.

FINDINGS

Finding 3.

School districts are closing schools. Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining, and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

THE DISTRICT DISAGREES IN PART WITH THIS STATEMENT.

Kashia Elementary is a one school district that serves the Kashia Pomo Reservation. Student population fluctuates but the need for a school to serve this population does not change. There are young children on the Reservation who will continue to need schooling. Although the budget and revenues have been declining the school is still solvent and should be able to continue serving students for the foreseeable future.

Finding 5.

State funding has decreased in California.

THE DISTRICT AGREES.

It is true that state funding has decreased. The small school formula along with Federal funding, Special Education dollars, and various grants continues to give Kashia enough money to operate.

Finding 7.

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools (Open Enrollment Act E.C. 48350

THE DISTRICT DISAGREES.

The parents at the Reservation do not consider the school to be failing and do not have the wherewithal to start a Charter School. The next school district is miles away and there is no transportation provided.

Finding 11.

Articulated curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

THE DISTRICT AGREES.

We agree with this statement and have aligned our textbook series to match the other elementary schools in the Pt. Arena high school district and the high school.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from one school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

THE DISTRICT DISAGREES WITH THIS STATEMENT.

Kashia has not experienced great difficulty in getting records. Although it can take some time to get records it has not taken a year.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, this information is not disseminated routinely by districts.

THIS IS NOT APPLICABLE TO KASHIA.

Kashia has only one teacher and there are not enough students in any one grade to get accurate statistical data.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially.
THE DISTRICT DISAGREES.

Kashia is not failing financially.

Recommendation 1.

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently a k-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSDO study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved through either consolidation or unification.

THE DISTRICT AGREES TO SUCH A STUDY BUT DOES NOT KNOW IF IT WILL BE APPLICABLE.

Kashia's high school district is in Mendocino County so we are not sure if a Sonoma County study will address consolidation by requiring a change of high school district or by coordinating with MCOE or Point Arena High School district on such a study.

Kashia has always been a Reservation School and has served the tribe first as a reservation school in the 1800's and more recently as a public school with the reservation as its district. It is alone or in a very tiny group of school districts in the United States that is able to keep it's tribal culture within the school system. Kashia language classes are taught as part of the every day curriculum and other aspects of the culture are taught in art and history. Your recommendation for a study does not include cultural reasons but in the case of Kashia a cultural category is needed beyond an educational and/or financial study.

Kashia is isolated by distance to other school districts, as are Horicon and Fort Ross districts on the coast. Our high school district is an hour drive to the north and the nearest school, Horicon, is nearly a half hour drive away over difficult roads. The only school in the High School district with over one hundred students is Arena Elementary School, which is located next to the High School in Point Arena.

Recommendation 9.

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury;

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority vote of the Board of Directors we x invite or decline to cooperate with a


- SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefit to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010-2011 enrollment is 11 students. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 14 students.
 - c. We are currently a K-8 school district.
 - d. We are not classified as a Basic Aid District.
 - e. We currently have 0 students living outside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. There were 0 such students in 2005/06 school year.
 - f. We currently have 0 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. There were 0 such students in 2005/06.
 - g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools in our district.
 - h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Most of the transferring students do not come from surrounding school districts but we do work to insure timely access to student records when they leave our school.
 - i. We currently have implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with the high school district (Pt Arena) and the other elementary schools that feed into it.
 - j. We currently do have MOUs to share cost saving plans with neighboring districts, Indian Health Organization, TANF (Temporary Aid to Native Families) and Stewarts Point Rancheria Tribal Council.

Date approved by Board of Trustees: August 22, 2011

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beverly Flynn, EdD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Beverly Flynn, Superintendent/Principal

Approved: 
Superior Court Judge
9/29/11

Kenwood School District's

SEP 26 2011

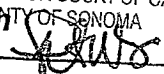
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury

FILED

Report Entitled

SEP 27 2011

Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

The Journey Begins with One Step

Kenwood School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period beginning with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School Districts are closing schools.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in its 50 year history.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Enrollment and attendance have remained stable for the past five year period. Interdistrict transfer requests from families wishing to bring their children to the District have also remained consistently high during the past five years.

Although revenue has decreased due to the drop in property taxes and state revenue during the past five years, the District has maintained its fiscal stability because of strong community support in the form of a parcel tax and the ongoing success of the District's Education Foundation. The most recent parcel tax renewal (August 30, 2011) passed with 81% of our community's voters approving a five-year extension of the parcel tax through June of 2017.

Finding 5

State Funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350).

The District agrees with the finding, although the District's API has been well above the 800 mark in every year since the inception of the state's API reporting program.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not had any problem with the transfer of records within Sonoma County. Record transfers from schools outside of Sonoma County have, on occasion, been delayed.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Parents are not able to get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE. It is correct that Districts do not routinely disseminate this information. However, in the case of our District, we are able to provide statistical data for all grade levels to parents, upon request.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached appendix).

The District agrees with the finding. *Some* Sonoma County schools are experiencing financial distress. The Kenwood School District has prudently managed its fiscal resources and has continued to receive strong support from its community. The voters in the district have approved four parcel tax measures over the past twenty years. In addition, the Kenwood Education Foundation, which was established in 1999, has enabled the District to continue to provide outstanding educational programs for all of the students in the District.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

Kenwood School District has been a “Basic Aid” school district for over twenty years.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors, we invite a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation. However, as stated in other responses, Kenwood School District is a Basic Aid District, receives significant community support, participates in shared services agreements with neighboring school districts, is financially sound, and maintains consistent enrollment and high academic achievement. The Grand Jury suggests that districts which are experiencing educational or financial problems ask SCOE to do a consolidation study (pp.29-30). Kenwood School District is not experiencing either of these problems and is not requesting such a study but is willing to cooperate with SCOE.
- b. Current 2011/2012 enrollment is 148. Enrollment for 2010/11 was 155. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 152.
- c. We are currently a K-6 elementary school district.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. As a Basic Aid District, we derive the following financial benefit: \$1,019,263 when our local property taxes are compared to the revenue limit that would be generated by students who are district residents, or \$641,999 when our local property taxes are compared to the revenue limit that would be generated by all students attending school in the Kenwood School District. In addition, in the 2010-11 fiscal year, Kenwood School District will have categorical revenue reduced as part of the state’s Basic Aid reduction program.
- e. We currently have 75 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago, we had 70 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 3 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend school in other districts. Five years ago, we had 3 students who lived inside the district boundaries who had chosen to attend school in other districts.
- g. There are currently no dependent or independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago, there were no charter schools operating in our district.
- h. We currently have effective protocols with all surrounding districts to provide complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district.

- i. We currently have plans and procedures in place to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that receive our students.
- j. We currently have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS) or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: September 15, 2011

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Bales
Bob Bales
Superintendent
Kenwood School District




Cory O'Donnell
Cory O'Donnell
Board President
Kenwood School District

Liberty School District

California Distinguished School

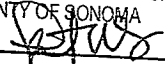
170 Liberty School Road, Petaluma, CA 94952
(707) 795-4380 Office • (707) 795-6468 Fax
Christopher Rafanelli, Superintendent/Principal

SEP 12 2011

Approved: 
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/14/11

FILED

SEP 14 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

September 9, 2011

Honorable Gary Nadler
Presiding Judge
Superior Court Drive
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Judge Nadler,

Please accept the enclosed response to the Grand Jury Report from the Liberty School District Board of Trustees.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Christopher Rafanelli
Superintendent/Principal

Liberty School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Liberty School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
- The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
- The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Liberty School District doesn't have any failing schools and is actually one of the highest performing school districts in the state.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District understands that our students may attend any number of junior high and high school programs throughout the county. We provide our students with a standards based education that will prepare them for any of the junior high/middle school choices available.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District rarely has a problem with receiving student records from other Sonoma County elementary districts. There is a protocol in place for requesting and receiving records from all districts.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: Due to our small size, our parents can see the

performance level of our staff by reviewing the school performance on our website.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. While some of the largest districts in the county appear to be failing financially, Liberty School District has consistently budgeted in a conservative manner and maintained reserves large enough to weather the dramatic reduction in State funding. It is interesting to note that when reviewing the Grand Jury Report, the districts listed with the greatest financial distress are far more likely to be amongst the largest districts in the county, including the largest K-12 district, Santa Rosa City Schools, and the largest unified district, Cotati-Rohnert Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

- The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.
- The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Liberty School District has reviewed the consolidation options and can not find any financial or academic benefit for our students or community.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 - invite
 - decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover

whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.

- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 200. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 198.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-6.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 80 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 72 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have an unknown number of students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? Unknown.
- g. There are currently 1 dependent and 1 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 1 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: 9/8/11

Respectfully submitted,



Bob Koenitzer, D.D.S., Liberty School District

Date: 9/8/11



MARK WEST UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-1101
District Office (707) 524-2970
Business Office (707) 524-2977 ♦ Fax (707) 524-2976
Ronald Calloway, Superintendent
rcalloway@mwusd.org

Board of Trustees:
Michael Edwards
Victor McKnight
Gary Saal
Aaron R. Smith
Greg Stone

SEP 8 - 2011

Approved: *[Signature]*
Superior Court Judge

Date: 9/8/11

Coordinator of Student Services
Ann Savvidis
Chief Business Officer:
Regina Cuculich

FILED

September 2, 2011

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive, Room 106J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY CLERK

SEP - 8 2011

Re: Mark West District Response to 2011 civil Grand Jury Report: Sonoma County School Consolidation/Unification Report

Honorable Judge Nadler:

Enclosed please find the Mark West Union School District Response to the Grand Jury Report regarding the Sonoma County School Consolidation/Unification Report. Also enclosed is the agenda from the August 23, 2011, Board of Trustees meeting. The agenda item on the Consolidation/Unification Report is #11.5.1. Hard copies of these documents have also been sent to the Foreperson of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Calloway
Ronald M. Calloway
Superintendent

Mark West Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Mark West Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
- The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
- The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disagrees in part with this finding. Parents are not able to "take over" a school that is less than required student achievement. Parents can move their children out of schools that are doing better. The District has not had any failing schools and in fact has all schools with an API over 800.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not had any problem with the transfer of records within Sonoma County. We have protocol set up that when a request for records is received at a school, the records are sent out within a week. We cannot send records until we receive the request form a school with the parent or guardian's signature.

We have not experienced problems with receiving documents from schools within the county. We use the Sonoma County Office of Education for the transportation of these records.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: Parents have access to their child's performance as well as site and district grade level performances through the California Department of Education website. Mark West Union School District website has link to the this website.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study. This issue will be addressed through SCOE and the elementary districts that feed into Santa Rosa City Schools.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

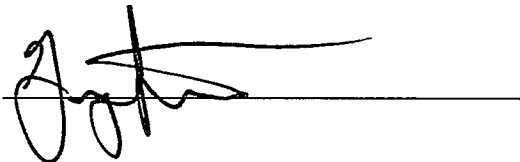
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 1310. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1300.

- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-6.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 480 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 446 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 160 students living inside district boundaries living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year?
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 2 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 2 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: August 23, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Date:

8/23/11

Mark West Union School District

**MARK WEST UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
AGENDA**

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

The meeting will be held at the Mark West Union School District Office Meeting Room,
305 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95404-1101

The meeting is open to the public 6:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Board Members

Greg Stone, President
Mike Edwards
Victor McKnight
Gary Saal
Aaron R. Smith

Staff Members

Ron Calloway, Superintendent
Tracy Lavin-Kendall, Fran Hansell, Kent Cromwell, Principals
Ann Savvidis, Coordinator of Student Services
Regina Cuculich, Chief Business Official
Michael Smith, Maintenance/Operations Director
Sue Sloat, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may seek clarification about any item on the Closed Session agenda for as long as the item is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person for a total of 20 minutes. Any person interested in the following items on the agenda will be allowed an opportunity to address the Board at this time.

2. CLOSED SESSION: 6:30 P.M.

- 2.1 Public Employment (Resignations, Hirings, Leaves, Contracts, Reassignments, Layoffs) (Government Code 54957)
- 2.2 Conference with Labor Negotiators pursuant to Section 54957.6: (Classified: CSEA; Certificated: MARFAC; Management; Confidential; District Negotiator: Regina Cuculich)

3. BOARD STUDY SESSION:

- 3.1 The Board will not hold a board study session.

4. OPEN SESSION: PUBLIC MEETING: 7:00 P.M.

- 4.1 The meeting will be called to order at 7:00 P.M.
- 4.2 Pledge of Allegiance
- 4.3 Approval of Agenda Order
- 4.4 Report Out of Closed Session

5. PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

- 5.1 Recognition of Classified Employee, Tom Farrell

6. BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

(Board Correspondence is provided for the purpose of reviewing correspondence addressed to or received by the Board.)

- 6.1 Letter from the Sonoma County Office of Education regarding the 2010/2011 Assignment Monitoring Report

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS/MATTERS

(Board Communications/Matters item is provided for the purpose of sharing school-related activities, school visitations, conferences attended, meetings scheduled. Board members may share any district related issues with other members of the Board and Staff. No formal Board of Education action will be taken.)

8. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 8.1 Enrollment Report/Regina Cuculich
- 8.2 School Verbal Reports/Principals
- 8.3 Maintenance/Operations Report/Michael Smith
- 8.4 Technology Report/Michael Smith
- 8.5 Superintendent Report/Ron Calloway
- 8.6 Educational Foundation Report
- 8.7 Budget Update/Regina Cuculich

- 8.8 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Data Collection & Quarterly Report
- 8.9 Report on the 2011 Grand Jury Report Regarding The Need for a Whistleblower Program in Sonoma County
- 8.10 Student Services Verbal Report/Ann Savvidis

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may seek clarification about any item on the agenda or not on the agenda as long as the item is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Comments shall be limited to three minutes per person for a total of 20 minutes. Any person interested in the following items on the agenda will be allowed an opportunity to address the Board at the end of Board discussion on that item.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items are considered routine and can be handled with one action since it is recommended that all items be approved unanimously. Board members may request that any item be discussed or moved to a future calendar.

10.1 PERSONNEL

10.1.1 Consideration of Approval of all items on the Personnel Form

10.2 BUSINESS

10.2.1 Vendor Warrant Report

10.2.2 Class Size Reduction Application

10.2.3 Re-Certify the 2011/2012 District Budget with Updates

10.3 CURRICULUM

10.4 MINUTES

10.4.1 Minutes of the June 14, 2011, Regular Board Meeting

10.4.2 Minutes of the June 23, 2011, Special Board Meeting

10.4.3 Minutes of the August 9, 2011, Special Board Meeting Retreat

10.5 FACILITIES

10.5.1 Williams Settlement Quarterly Uniform Complaint Report Summary

10.6 DONATIONS

11. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

11.1 BUSINESS

11.2 CURRICULUM

11.3 FACILITIES

11.3.1 Consideration of Approval of Change Order #3: Reduction in Prior Change Order #2 in the amount of \$7,183.00 for the John B. Riebli School Construction Project.

11.3.2 Consideration of Approval of the Notice of Completion of the John B. Riebli School Modular Classrooms and New Parking Lot

11.4 BOARD POLICIES

11.5 ADMINISTRATION

11.5.1 Consideration of Approval of the Mark West Union School District Response to the 2011 Grand Jury Report Regarding School District Consolidation/Unification

11.5.2 Consideration of Approval of Holding a Special Board Meeting/Study Session with the Mark West Charter School's Board of Directors on September 1, 2011

11.5.3 Consideration of Approval to Nominate Directors-at-Large for the CSBA's Delegate Assembly

12. EVALUATION OF THE BOARD MEETING

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next proposed Special Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2011. The next Regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011.

14. ADJOURNMENT

ADA Compliance

In compliance with Government Code § 54954.2(a), the Mark West Union School District, will, on request, make this agenda available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the American with Disabilities Acts of 1990 (42 U.S.C. § 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals who need this agenda in an alternative format or who need a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, should contact Sue Sloat, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, 707-524-2972.

Approved: MM
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/12/11

**Monte Rio Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

SEP 12 2011
FILED
SEP 12 2011
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: CSJ DEPUTY CLERK

Monte Rio Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

performance as well as site and district grade level performances through the California Department of Education website and specially designed data analysis via Ed Redults website. Data by grade is made public via Board packets yearly. As Monte Rio Union School is a small school with only one or two teachers per grade level, performance at a teacher's grade level is easily determined from data readily available, and all teachers are performing successfully.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Monte Rio Union School is a basic aid district.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite **decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.**

b. **Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 89. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 95.**

- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-8.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: We are a small, rural one-school district. If we did not get Basic Aid, and instead had to run our school based on ADA, or revenue limit, we would not have enough revenue to provide an adequate school program for the children living in our fairly vast rural district. Property taxes provide a more stable funding source.
- e. We currently have enrolled 25 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 8 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 6 students living inside district boundaries living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year?
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

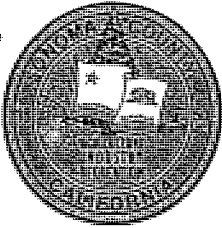
Date approved by District Board: Aug 18, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schwinn, Superintendent

Date: Aug 22, 2011

Monte Rio Union School District



THE SONOMA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY

P.O. Box 5109 · Santa Rosa · California · 95402 · (707) 565-6330
http://www.sonomasuperiorcourt.com/pages/gjury_info.php

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/20/11

SEP 16 2011

June 24, 2011

FILED

SEP 20 2011

Montgomery Elementary School District
18620 Fort Ross Road
Cazadero, CA 95421

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

RE: Sonoma County School Consolidation/Unification Report

Enclosed please find a copy of the above report by the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury.

Note that Penal Code section 933.05(f) specifically prohibits any disclosure of the contents of this report by a public agency or its officers or governing body prior to its June 30, 2011 scheduled release to the public. You are herewith admonished not to disclose or discuss the contents of this report before that date.

The Grand Jury requires that you respond in writing to the Findings and Recommendations as specifically directed in the report and pursuant to the time frames referenced in Penal Code section 933 as follows:

Hard copy to: Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administrative Drive Santa Rosa, CA. 95403

Hard copy to: Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Responses are public records. The clerk of the public agency affected must maintain a copy of your response. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 707 565-6330 or at the above address.

Sincerely,

Chris Christensen

Chris Christensen, Foreperson
2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury

Approved: mm
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/16/11

**School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

SEP 16 2011

FILED

SEP 16 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
By S. W. S. DEPUTY CLERK

School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
- The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
- The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

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Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

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Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

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Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

- The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.
- The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

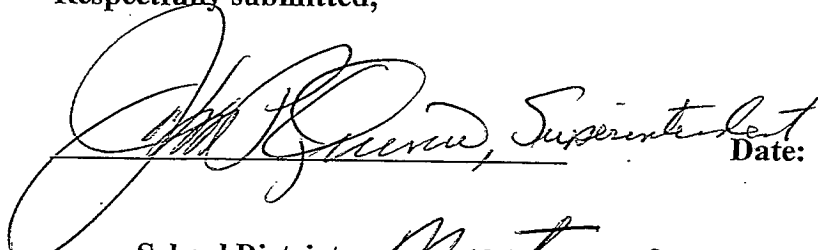
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 36 . Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 35 .
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is _____.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: *PROPERTY TAXES*
- e. We currently have enrolled 2 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 6 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 6 students living inside district boundaries living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 18

- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board:

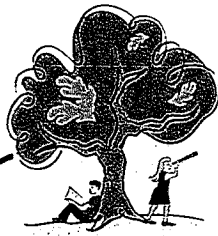
Respectfully submitted,


J. H. Brown, Superintendent
Date: 9-12-11

School District *Montgomery*

Oak Grove School

Wayne Yamagishi, Principal
8760 Bower Street
Sebastopol, CA 95472
phone: (707) 823-5225
fax: (707) 829-2614

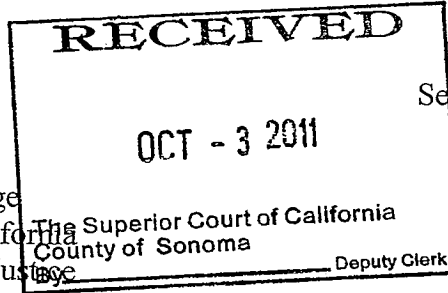


Oak Grove
Union School District
Growing Life-long Learners

Willowside Middle School

Brian J. Howard, Principal
5285 Hall Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
phone: (707) 542-3322
fax: (707) 525-4439

Approved: *[Signature]*
Superior Court Judge
Date: 10/17/11



September 14, 2011

FILED

OCT 17 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY CLERK

Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administrative Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

District Office

Kevin E. Harrigan,
Superintendent

Deborah Wolfe,
Chief Financial Officer

5299 Hall Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
phone: (707) 545-0171
fax: (707) 545-0176

Board of Trustees

Steve Dick
Brian Jacobs
Matthew Schondel
Terry Thiessen
Ted Young

Our Vision

The Oak Grove Union School District, in partnership with our community, creates a challenging, safe, and caring learning environment for each student.

We are committed to:

- Academic Excellence
- Engagement with the Arts
- Development of Life Skills
- Celebration of Diversity
- Stewardship of the Environment

Re: Response to 2011 Civil Grand Jury Report
Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option:
The Journey Begins With One Step

Dear Judge Nadler,

The Grand Jury is to be commended as they exercise oversight of all aspects of county and city government and special districts within Sonoma County to ensure that the best interests of its citizens are being served. This is a challenging and unenviable job. As superintendent of the Oak Grove Union School District, after conferring with the district's Board of Trustees, I offer the following narrative response.

Recommendations R1 and R9a – Request a CCSDO Study

The recommendation will not be implemented. After carefully reviewing our district's situation, we have deemed that it is not advisable to ask SCOE to do a study of potential consolidation/unification. The discussion in the Grand Jury's report suggests a study for districts that are experiencing problems with making expenses more productive and/or improving student achievement. By any metric you choose, our district is financially stable. Student achievement is high in our district and is improving as well, based on high STAR results and enviable AYP and API scores.

Additionally, our district is not experiencing any of the four problems identified by the superintendents the Grand Jury interviewed:

1. Our budgets are not decreasing.
2. Curricular and student record articulation exists between grade school and middle schools within the district. Also, suitable and effective articulation processes are in place and functioning between our district and West Sonoma County Union High School District (with partner high school El Molino, the most likely destination of students leaving our district, as well as Analy and Laguna High Schools).
3. We are not experiencing a negative impact from charter schools.
4. Our enrollment is not declining. Our enrollment has progressively increased over the last three academic years from 811 students in 2009/2010 to 873 students currently enrolled for the 2011/2012 school year. We additionally have waiting lists in many grades for our 1-8 grade charter school.

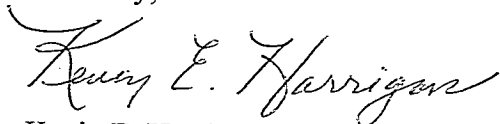
The Grand Jury report appears to accept as a given that there are merits in consolidation. With respect, however, there are many differing claims made for and against consolidation. For a district like ours, a recent review did not convincingly substantiate the claims in support of consolidation. The assumption that smaller district size correlates to wasteful expenditure or low student performance is simply not true in Oak Grove Union School District. In California, there's a long-standing policy of letting local constituencies decide how to best structure their local districts. You can be assured that if our size interfered with positive student outcomes or caused uneconomical or inefficient spending, then we would be the first to seek an alternative structure. We would, of course, be responsive to input from our constituents (citizens residing in our district boundaries) if they were to call for such a study, but we have heard no such input. We do not see significant likelihood that educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved through either consolidation or unification. On this basis, we are not convinced that there exists any compelling reason for our district to ask SCOE to initiate a consolidation/unification study. This decision was reached by a majority (unanimous) vote of the Board of Directors.

Recommendations R9 (b.-j.) – Responses to Questions

- b. The current enrollment in Oak Grove Union School District for 2011/2012 as of September 7, 2011 is 873. The 2010/2011 enrollment was 831. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 811.
- c. No, we are not currently a K-12 unified school district. Our current structure is a K-8 union school district, consisting of two schools (K-5 and 6-8), with grades 1-8 organized as a conversion charter school (also known as a dependent charter school). We also host the Pivot Online-North Bay charter school.
- d. No, we are not currently classified as a Basic Aid District.
- e. We currently have enrolled 508 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago, there were 355 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 39 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. In 2005/2006, there were no such students.
- g. There are currently one dependent and one independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago, there was one dependent and zero independent charter schools in our district.
- h. Yes, we currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to ensure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district.
- i. Yes, we currently have implemented coordinated plans to ensure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts most likely to receive our students (and from whom we are likely to receive students).
- j. Yes, we currently have agreements with neighboring districts, contribute to consortia, and participate in shared-cost saving plans offered through SCOE.

On behalf of the district and its Board of Trustees, I wish to thank the Grand Jury for the opportunity to respond to its report. We hope this information is useful to you.

Sincerely,



Kevin E. Harrigan
Superintendent

Copy: Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
PO Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

**Oak Grove Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Oak Grove Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
- The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
- The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. **Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 831. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 811.**
- c. **We are currently a K-12 unified school district.** Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-8.
- d. **We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District.** Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. **We currently have enrolled 508 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 355 students living outside district boundaries.**
- f. **We currently have 39 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year?** n/a

- g. There are currently one dependent and one independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were one dependent and zero independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: September 14, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin E. Harrigan
Superintendent
Oak Grove Union School District

Date: September 15, 2011

OAK GROVE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Oak Grove Union School District Board Room
5299 Hall Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

MINUTES
September 14, 2011

1.0 **OPEN SESSION - Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Brian Jacobs at 5:30 p.m. at Oak Grove Union District Board Room.

Roll Call

Board Members:

Steve Dick	Present
Brian Jacobs, President	Present
Matthew Schondel, Clerk	Present
Terri Thiessen	Absent
Ted Young	Absent

Administration:

Kevin E. Harrigan, Superintendent
Brian J. Howard, Principal
Wayne Yamagishi, Principal
Debbie Wolfe, CFO
Aimee Sloat, Admin Assistant

Guests:

6

2.0 **Comments from the Audience on Closed Session Items:**

None

3.0 **Closed Session-Adjournment to Closed Session during this meeting to consider and/or take action on any of the following items:**

3.1 Conference with Labor Negotiator (Government Code Section 54957.6)

Name of District Negotiator: Noel J. Buehler

Name of Organization Representing Employees: Oak Grove Union Elementary Educators Association, CTA Affiliate

Name of Organization Representing Employees: Oak Grove Union School District Classified School Employees Association, Chapter 811: CSEA Affiliate

3.2 Public Employment/Appointments/Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Resignation (Government Code Section 54957)

3.3 Consideration of Student Suspension or Other Disciplinary Action – Not Expulsion (Government Code Section 48912)

3.4 Public Employees Performance Evaluations (Government Code Section 54957)

3.5 Conference with Legal Counsel-Anticipated Litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9)

Significant exposure to litigation to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9

Specify number of cases:

4.0 **Return to Open Session:**

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:45 p.m.

5.0 **Report on Actions Taken in Closed Session:**

None

6.0 Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was amended to move items 11.0 and 12.0 before item 7.0.

It was moved by Steve Dick and seconded by Matthew Schondel to approve the Agenda as amended.

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

11.0 Consent Items:

11.1 Approval of Board Minutes (August 10, 2011)

11.2 Approval of Partial Resignation: Kimberlee Tindol-Williams

11.3 Approval of Field Trip: 6th Grade – Outdoor Education - Foothill New Horizons;
7th Grade – Bodega Marine Lab; 7th Grade – Jenner Estuary

11.4 Approval of Fundraisers: 6th Grade – Activity Day; 7th/8th Grade – Dance

It was moved by Steve Dick and seconded by Matthew Schondel to approve

Consent Items 11.1 – 11.4.

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

12.0 Action Items

12.1 Approval of Resolution # 1112-02 – Sufficiency of Textbooks & Instructional Materials
Superintendent's Comments/Recommendations:

Inventories and surveys have been completed and it has been determined that we have sufficiency of textbook and instructional materials in the district. Mr. Harrigan recommended approval.

Public Comment:

None

Board Motion:

It was moved by Steve Dick and seconded by Matthew Schondel to approve Resolution # 1112-02 – Sufficiency of Textbooks & Instructional Materials

Board Discussion:

None

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

12.2 Approval of Revolution Foods Bid

Superintendent's Comments/Recommendations:

The agreement between the district and Revolution Foods for the 2011/12 school year is aligned with the same provisions of the 2010/11 contract bid. Mr. Harrigan recommended approval of the bid for the 2011/12 school year.

Public Comment:

None

Board Motion:

It was moved by Matthew Schondel and seconded by Steve Dick to approve the Revolution Foods Bid.

Board Discussion:

None

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

12.3 Approval of Resolution # 1112-03 – Gann Limit

Chief Financial Officer's Comments/Recommendations:

This resolution fulfills the responsibility of the district to identify the estimated appropriations limit for the current fiscal year and the actual appropriations limit for the preceding year. Debbie Wolfe recommended approval of Resolution #1112-03 – Gann Limit.

Public Comment:

None

Board Motion:

It was moved by Steve Dick and seconded by Matthew Schondel to approve Resolution # 1112-03 – Gann Limit

Board Discussion:

None

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

12.4 **Approval of 2010/2011 Unaudited Actual**

Chief Financial Officer's Comments/Recommendations:

Debbie Wolfe recommended approval of the Unaudited Actual Report for the 2010/2011 year.

Public Comment:

None

Board Motion:

It was moved by Matthew Schondel and seconded by Steve Dick to approve the 2010/2011 Unaudited Actual Report

Board Discussion:

None

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

12.5 **Approval of the Oak Grove Union School District Response to the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report on Sonoma County School Consolidation/Unification**

Superintendent's Comments/Recommendations:

After carefully reviewing our district's situation, we have deemed that it is not advisable to ask SCOE to do a study of potential consolidation/unification. The recommendation of the CCSDO will not be implemented.

Public Comment:

None

Board Motion:

It was moved by Steve Dick and seconded by Matthew Schondel to submit Mr. Harrigan's response indicating that the district would not implement the suggestions presented by the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury on consolidation/unification.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Steve Dick asked for clarification on Basic Aid funds and whether the district was considered a Basic Aid District. Ms. Wolfe answered his questions.

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

12.6 **Approval of Reinstatement of .58 FTE School Secretary Position**

Superintendent's Comments/Recommendations:

The reinstatement of .58 FTE honors the contractual agreement between CSEA and the district.

Mr. Harrigan recommends approval.

Public Comment:

None

Board Motion:

It was moved by Matthew Schondel and seconded by Steve Dick to approve the Reinstatement of .58 FTE School Secretary Position.

The motion was carried with the following vote:

Action: Ayes 3 Nays 0 Abstentions 0

The board returned to item 7.0

7.0 Comments from audience on items not on the agenda:

None

8.0 Comments from the Board of Trustees:

None

9.0 Correspondence:

A donation of two iMAC desktop computers was received by the district. A letter of appreciation was mailed to Heather Wise for her donation.

10.0 Reports:

10.1 OGUEEA:

Gabi Shader shared upcoming events at Oak Grove: Kindergarten teachers are putting their small group instruction to use; First Grade is doing literacy centers; Second Grade is learning about habitats; Third Grade will be enjoying a reading of The Waterfall and later in the month they will be going to a Miwok Village at Point Reyes National Seashore; Fourth Grade is starting a unit on the study of rocks as part of their science curriculum; Fifth Grade will be celebrating "Constitution Day".

10.2 CSEA Report:

None

10.3 OG/WS-PTO Report:

None

10.4 OGEP Report:

None

10.5 DELAC:

None

10.6 Principals' Reports:

Brian Howard shared with the board the newly formed Leadership Team Meeting. The team of teachers discussed the school vision and beliefs related to them. The accomplishment of high student achievement is a major goal. Using the Leadership Capacity Matrix it was determined that the school is currently very high (between 1- low and 4 - high they rated the school 3.5). The meeting ended with an exploration of future goals and current needs.

Wayne Yamagishi shared the news at Oak Grove School: All programs including the Chorus/Music and Band programs have begun; Instructional Assessment and Planning took place in September – implementation to begin in October; the Parent Survey results were calculated - There will be district and staff discussions on the areas needing improvement.

10.7 Chief Financial Officer's Report:

Debbie Wolfe discussed the Gann Limit and the 2010/2011 Unaudited Actual Report. The Gann Limit can be defined as a limit on the amount of tax money that state and local governments, including school districts, can legally spend. Ms Wolfe discussed the Unaudited Actual determinations for the board's approval.

10.8 Superintendent's Report:

Opening of School – We have had a smooth and successful opening of the 2011/12 academic year. We want to acknowledge all of the collaborative and dedicated contributions which have been made to support our students and their families.

Enrollment Report – Our enrollment has continued to grow and is at capacity in most grade levels. We continue to have waiting lists for some grades. Our district's outstanding reputation, our commitment to meeting the needs of every learner, our outstanding staff and the leadership actions of the district continue to attract many families to our learning community.

Arts Foundation Fundraiser – The up-coming Oktoberfest fundraiser will be held on October 1 at the Rio Nido Roadhouse.

State Budget – The state has signed various “trailer bills” that amend the California Education Code and other California codes to reflect technical changes necessary to implement the budget. The Governor and the Legislature were obligated to take drastic measures for the fourth year in a row to bring the state budget into balance.

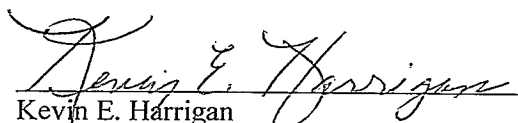
STAR Test Results – This PowerPoint presentation will be discussed at the next board meeting.


13.0 **Items Scheduled for Future Meetings:**

- 13.1 STAR Test Results – PowerPoint presentation
- 13.2 District Governance Calendar
- 13.3 Discussion on District Goals

14.0 **Adjournment – 6:53 pm**

Respectfully submitted,


Kevin E. Harrigan
Secretary to the Board of Trustees



Brian Jacobs
Board President
or
Matthew Schondel
Board Clerk

Old Adobe



Cynthia Pilar
Superintendent

Union School District

SEP 14 2011

845 Crinella Drive, Petaluma, CA 94954-4450

(707) 765-4321 (707) 765-4343 Fax

August 30, 2011

Approved:

[Signature]
Superior Court Judge

Date:

9/14/11

FILED

SEP 14 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY CLERK

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive, Room 106J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: Response to 2011 Civil Grand Jury Report
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Honorable Judge Nadler:

Pursuant to direction from the 2011 Civil Grand Jury, I am enclosing the response of the Old Adobe Union School District to the specified findings and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Pilar
Superintendent

cc: Marlene Abel, Board President

Enclosure (1)

**Old Adobe Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Old Adobe Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of 1 school(s) in the Five-Year Period.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. We disagree that parents are able to "take over" a school that has not achieved required growth in student achievement. Parents can move their children out of such schools and into alternative educational settings. Districts have obligations to revise and "turnaround" a school that is not meeting required achievement goals.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Our district has never had an instance when it has taken a year to get student records transferred from school to school within Sonoma County. Normally, we contact the previous school and records are either faxed to us within the hour or mailed immediately.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

SCOE does not provide teacher grade level performance data.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

The Grand Jury's context of financially failing districts is unclear. There are some school districts in the county that are struggling financially and are experiencing financial distress, but they are not bankrupt. Most of the financial issues for our schools are in terms of meeting obligations when projected over multi-year time periods, not in the current year. This is due to the fact that state funding has declined dramatically over the last few years. Further, the state has deferred payment of the money owed to school districts into subsequent school years, such that school districts do not have access to their money in a predictable fashion and at traditional time frames.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

- The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on May 20, 2011.
- The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.
- The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.
- The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

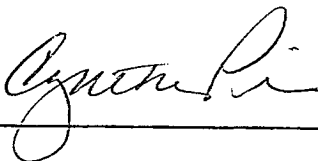
- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 - invite** **decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover**

whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.

- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 1701. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1745.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-6.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 190 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 122 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 386 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 282
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 1 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: Sept. 8, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Date: Sept. 6, 2011

**Roseland School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Approved: _____
Date: _____
Superior Court Judge
9/20/11

Roseland School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FILED

FINDINGS

SEP 20 2011

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY SAWS DEPUTY CLERK

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of _____ school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Please note: We prefer the term "partner district" as opposed to "feeder schools" as a more collaborative description of our districts in Sonoma County.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Please note: Majority of students stay with us through high school. Additionally we have not experienced aforementioned delays with records from other districts.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Please note: While many districts are having difficulties state-wide, no districts in Sonoma County have experienced state take-overs or bankruptcy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

Please note: Roseland School District currently serves preschool through 12th grade students.

Roseland School District will fully study and consider the results of this study. If a further study is determined to be useful, we would like to meet with the other partner districts and work collaboratively to determine the parameters of a "reorganization study", rather than a "consolidation study" that implies only one outcome. There are many possibilities for districting schools in Santa Rosa. We also want to ensure that student achievement in all sub groups is included and that parents have a voice in the study.

These parameters are applied to the the response to Recommendation 9 a, below as well.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Roseland School District currently serves preschool through grade 12 students.

Recommendation 9

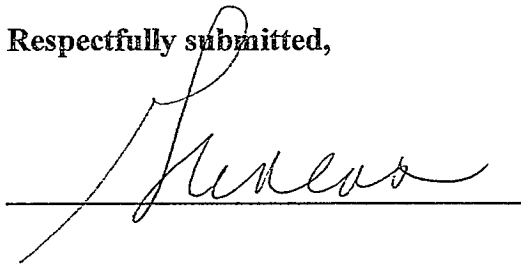
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 1547 Kindergarten through sixth and 687 students in 7th through 12th. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1525 kindergarten through sixth and 644 students 7th through 12th..
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is
Please note: we are an elementary school district and authorizer of a K through 12th grade charter school. Nearly all of our students choose to stay with Roseland School District for their elementary years through high school.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 250 kinder through 6th grade students and 146 secondary charter students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 256 kinder through 6th grade students and 77 secondary charter students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 318 kinder through 6th grade students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 353
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 1 (Please note: the terms "independent" and "dependent" are not legal terms and therefore widely interpreted. Roseland District is the authorizer of Roseland Charter School, a direct-funded charter school, therefore independent in that sense. However, the charter school is fully integrated into the district's mission and goals and we have a seamless K-12 articulated program and therefore could be viewed as dependent in that sense) independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 1 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.

- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: August 17, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

Date:

9/9/11

School District

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/20/11

SEP 20 2011

**Petaluma City (Elementary) School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Petaluma City (Elementary) School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FILED

FINDINGS

SEP 20 2011

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of _____ school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on April 27, 2011.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 2178. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 2098.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-6 Elementary District (operating under Common Board and Administration with our 7-12 District, Petaluma Joint Union High School District).
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 517 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 200 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 263 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 204

- g. There are currently 1 dependent and 1 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 1 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: 9-13-11

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schafer, Board President

Date: 9-13-11

Petaluma City (Elementary) School District

READ AND CONSIDERED
DATE 9/27/11 BY [Signature]

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge

Date: 9/27/11

FILED

SEP 27 2011

**Petaluma Joint Union High School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled**

*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step*

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Petaluma Joint Union High School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on April 27, 2011.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 5380. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 5535.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is 7-12 High School District (operating under Common Board and Administration with our K-6 District, Petaluma City (Elementary) School District).
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 192 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 114 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 117 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 97

- g. There are currently 1 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 1 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: 9-13-11

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Schafer, Board President

Date: 9-13-11

Petaluma Joint Union High School District



PINER-OLIVET UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

3450 Coffey Lane ♦ Santa Rosa, California 95403-1919 ♦ (707) 522-3000 ♦ Fax (707) 522-3007

www.pousd.org

September 12, 2011

SEP 21 2011

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive, Room 106J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Board of Trustees

Lisa Anderson
Mardi Hinton
Albert Lau
Beth Mead
Cindy Pryor



Superintendent
Jennie Snyder, Ed.D.

Re: Response to 2011 Civil Grand Jury Report, Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option The Journey Begins With One Step

Honorable Judge Nadler:

Pursuant to direction from the 2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury, and on behalf of the Governing Board of the Piner-Olivet Union School District, I am submitting the enclosed response to the specified findings and recommendations. The Governing Board approved their response to the specified findings and recommendations at their September 7, 2011 meeting.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (707) 522-3000.

Sincerely,

Lisa Anderson, Board President
Piner-Olivet Union School District

**Piner-Olivet Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Approved: *MM*
Date: *9/22/11*
Superior Court Judge

Piner-Olivet Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FILED

SEP 22 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY CLERK

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of 1 school(s) in the Five-Year Period.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The district has not experienced the impact of this legislation.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disagrees with this finding. The transfer of student records has not been problematic for our district.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: The District disagrees partially with the finding. Parents are not able to get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE. It is true that districts do not disseminate information on a teacher's grade level performance, but they do put out information on grade level performance for each school.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The Grand Jury's context of financially failing districts is unclear. There are some school districts in the county that are struggling financially and are experiencing financial distress, but they are not bankrupt. Most of the financial issues for our schools are in terms of meeting obligations when projected over multi-year time periods, not in the current year. This is due to the fact that state funding has declined dramatically over the last few years. Further, the state has deferred payment of the money owed to school districts into subsequent school years, such that school districts do not have access to their money in a predictable fashion and at traditional time frames.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study. We will address this issue through SCOE and the elementary districts that feed into Santa Rosa City Schools.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

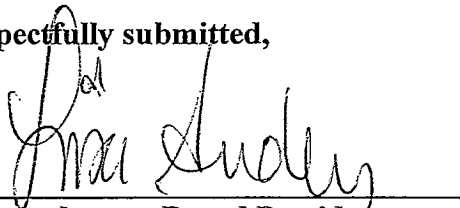
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite **decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.**

- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 1529. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1647.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-8 school district.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 166 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were (we do not have access this data) students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 85 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? Our student database does not include this information.
- g. There are currently 2 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 2 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: 9/7/11


Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Anderson, Board President
Piner-Olivet Union School District

Date: 9/7/11

**Rincon Valley Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step***

Approved: 
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/14/11

Rincon Valley Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the history of the district.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

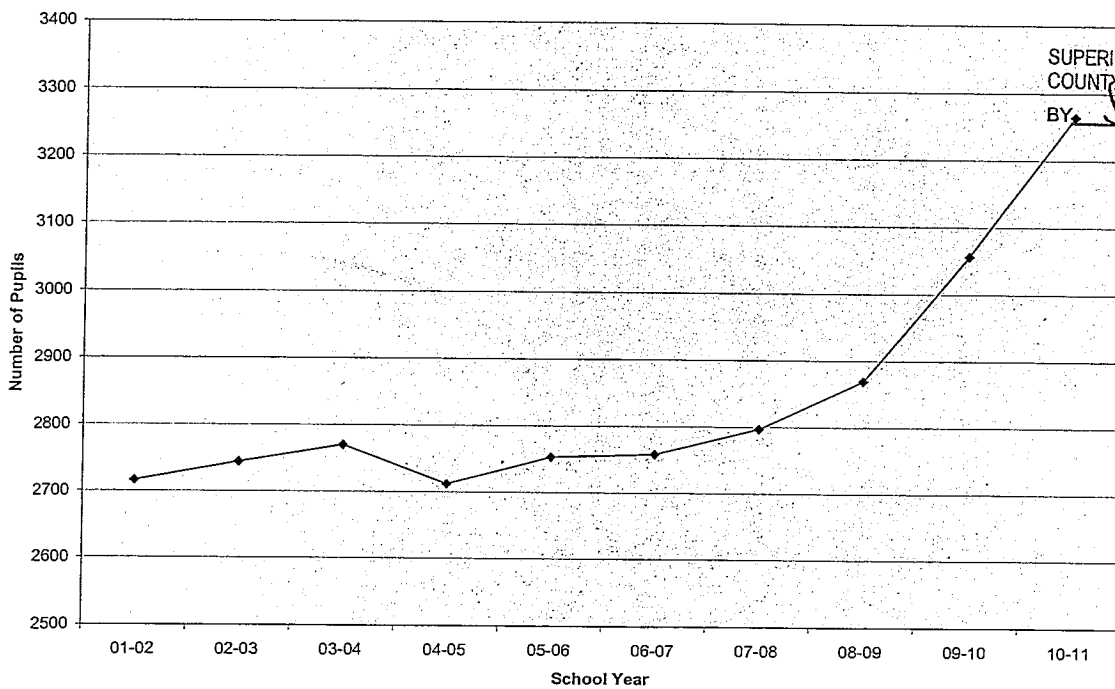
The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

If fact, as demonstrated in Exhibit 1, enrollment and attendance have increased every year since 2004-05, with enrollment increasing 209 pupils from 2009-10 to 2010-11.

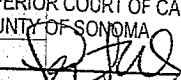
Exhibit 1, RVUSD Historic Enrollment

FILED

Rincon Valley USD Enrollment



SEP 14 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY:  DEPUTY CLERK

Over the last two years, RVUSD's enrollment has increased over six percent per year. Due to this strong enrollment growth, the district expanded facilities and added classrooms to both Whited Elementary School and Spring Creek/Matanzas Elementary School. For the 2011-12 school year, the district is close to capacity and enrollment is projected to exceed last year's numbers by an additional 45 students.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

State funding has decreased in California, with school revenues having diminished more than 20% since 2006-07. Fortunately RVUSD has several factors which have helped stabilize the district financially.

First, the district has economy of scale. This means that as enrollment grows, the district has sufficient administrative and operational capacity that the cost per pupil actually diminishes with this growth. As enrollment increased for RVUSD, the district financially benefited not only because of the extra revenue per student it receives from the state, but because the cost to educate each student diminished. This has helped the district operate efficiently.

Second, the district is small enough to be able to take advantage of internal departmental reorganizing to realize efficiency. In other words, the span of control for supervisors and administrators is adequate to allow supervision and change to be successful. For instance, over the last five years the district has reorganized its food service, custodial, maintenance, and transportation departments and has not only increased efficiency, but effectiveness as well. Reasonably sized departments with adequate supervision can react to needed change more quickly than larger organizations where the span of control is stretched too thin.

Finally, two years ago the district qualified for additional state funding due to the conversion of several of the districts school to charter schools. This extra funding also helped the district maintain low class size, kept intact the traditional school year, and maintain the high standards that parents have come to expect from RVUSD schools. Consolidation of the district into a larger district could eliminate this funding source.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District disagrees in part with this finding.

Parents are not able to "take over" a school that has less than required student achievement. Parents can move their children out of such schools and into schools that are doing better. The District has not had any failing schools and in fact has all schools with an API over 800.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. We believe that focusing on the grade level standards, rather than a specific curriculum, is more important to ensure students success in high school. The District's mission is to have all students working at or above grade level standards when they leave our schools. These students are then able to be successful in whichever middle or high school they attend. We also find that curriculum used in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools are different and focusing on the standards is the only valid way to prepare students for success.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not had any problem with the transfer of records within Sonoma County. We have protocol set up that when a request for records is received at a school they are sent out within the week. We cannot send the records until we receive the request from a school with the parent or guardian's signature. Occasionally, we do not receive a request from another school when a student un-enrolls for quite some time.

We have also found that getting records from other schools within the county has not been a problem. When a student is enrolled in one of our schools, we have the parents or guardian fill out and sign a records request for the school their child last attended. This is sent to the school within three days. We normally receive the records within two weeks. If we have not, then we contact the school and make a second request.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Parents are not able to get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE. It is true that districts do not disseminate information on a teacher's grade level performance, but they do put out information on grade level performance for each school.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District disagrees with the finding in part. Some Sonoma County Schools are experiencing significant financial distress, but they are not bankrupt. However, it is interesting to note that of the nine school districts displaying financial distress in the appendix of the *2010-11 Grand Jury Report*, four of these districts are unified districts and one is a common administrative district, which also serves students from K-12. These districts include the largest district in Sonoma County, Santa Rosa City Schools, and the largest unified school district, Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District. Only three of these ten districts are elementary school districts. Of the 38 districts listed in the appendix of the Grand Jury Report, seven serve a K-12 population, and five of them, or 71% are showing financial distress, compared to the four of 31 elementary and high school districts, which equates to just 13%.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and financial benefits could be achieved.

The District agrees with the finding. However, the District believes that large consolidated districts are not the most efficient educationally and financially. We would be interested in exploring the creation of K-8 and 9-12 districts as well as smaller K-12 districts.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

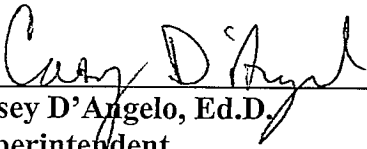
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we agree decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation, as long as all options are considered including creating K-8 and 9-12 districts or smaller K-12 districts.
- b. Current 2011/2012 enrollment is 3,228. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 3,039.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K – 6 with a 7-8 charter school.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. However, due to our five charter schools we do receive supplemental Basic Aid funding.
- e. We currently have enrolled 506 students living outside district boundaries, not including those in our 7th-8th grade charter school. It is difficult to know precisely the number of students who were living outside district boundaries five years ago, 2005-06. We have approved inter-district transfers from 175 students, but there were many more who were continuing transfer students and were not required to fill out new paperwork each year.
- f. We currently have 229 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. Five years ago there were 258 students living inside district boundaries who chose to attend schools in other districts.

- g. There are currently five dependent and no independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there was one dependent and no independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes.
 No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to. Historically we have had meetings with the middle schools our students feed into, but they have not been consistent.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: September 6, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Casey D'Angelo, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Rincon Valley Union School District

Date: September 6, 2011

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

SEP 16 2011

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
9/16/11

Date:

Report Title: Doing Nothing about Education is No Longer an Option

Report Date: September 2, 2011

Response by: Gail Ahlas

Title: Superintendent

FILED

SEP 16 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F5, F7, F11, F17
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F3, F16, F19
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.) See attached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R1 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.) See attached.
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation)

Date: 9/2/2011

Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached 5

Roseland School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Roseland School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
- The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
- The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Please note: We prefer the term "partner district" as opposed to "feeder schools" as a more collaborative description of our districts in Sonoma County.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Please note: Majority of students stay with us through high school. Additionally we have not experienced aforementioned delays with records from other districts.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Please note: We prefer the term "partner district" as opposed to "feeder schools" as a more collaborative description of our districts in Sonoma County.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Please note: Majority of students stay with us through high school. Additionally we have not experienced aforementioned delays with records from other districts.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

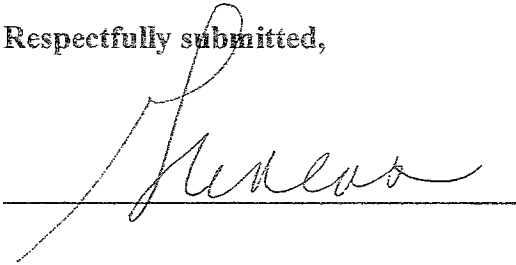
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is
1547 Kindergarten through sixth and 687 students in 7th through 12th.
Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1525 kindergarten through sixth and 644 students 7th through 12th..
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is
Please note: we are an elementary school district and authorizer of a K through 12th grade charter school. Nearly all of our students choose to stay with Roseland School District for their elementary years through high school.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 250 kinder through 6th grade students and 146 secondary charter students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 256 kinder through 6th grade students and 77 secondary charter students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 318 kinder through 6th grade students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 353
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 1 (Please note: the terms "independent" and "dependent" are not legal terms and therefore widely interpreted. Roseland District is the authorizer of Roseland Charter School, a direct-funded charter school, therefore independent in that sense. However, the charter school is fully integrated into the district's mission and goals and we have a seamless K-12 articulated program and therefore could be viewed as dependent in that sense) independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 1 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.

- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: August 17, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. K. ...", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: 9/9/11


School District



Douglas R. Bower
Assoc. Supt. - Business
(707)528-5381
Fax: 528-5103
E-mail: dbower@srcs.k12.ca.us

September 16, 2011

Judge Gary Nadler
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Approved: 
Superior Court Judge


Date: 9/21/11

Chris Christensen, Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
c/o: County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FILED

SEP 21 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY  DEPUTY CLERK

SUBJECT: 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Nadler and Mr. Christensen:

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am forwarding the attached responses to the following subject matters contained in the Sonoma County Grand Jury's 2010-11 Final Report:

- Findings 3, 5, 7, 11, 16, 17 and 19 and recommendations 1 and 9 relative to Sonoma County school district consolidation/unification report. The Board of Education approved the responses at its meeting on August 24, 2011.
- Recommendations in Appendix 3 relative to the need for a whistleblower program in Sonoma County. The Board of Education approved the responses at its meeting on September 14, 2011.

In closing, we wish to thank the Grand Jury for taking the time to look into this very important aspect of school district operations. If any further action is required, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



DOUGLAS R. BOWER
Associate Superintendent
Business

DRB:kc

Cc: (Cover Letter Only)
Board of Education
Dr. Sharon Liddell, Superintendent

Santa Rosa City Schools District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Santa Rosa City Schools District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of zero school(s) in the Five-Year Period, but is aware that other districts in Sonoma County have done so.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: *The District disseminates each grade level's performance through SCOE and individual School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs).*

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

The District has sent letters to the Board Presidents and Superintendents of partner elementary districts to determine interest in participating jointly in such a study.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

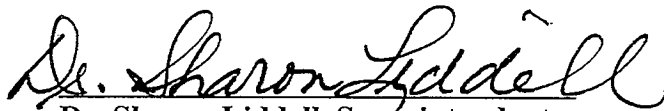
- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation. *(See response to Recommendation #1 above. To date, the Board has not formally voted on this recommendation.)*
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 15,224. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 15,298.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. *Our structure is Common Board, Common Administration Elementary and High School Districts.*
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: *n/a*
- e. We currently have enrolled 785 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 872 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have *(unknown)* students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? *(unknown)* *The District only has residential data for students who are enrolled in its own schools. Such data is not available to*

the District for students who reside within its boundary but attend public or private school elsewhere."

- g. There are currently 4 dependent and 8 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 4 dependent and 7 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: AUGUST 24, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Sharon Liddell, Superintendent
Santa Rosa City Schools

Date: 8-29-11

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/10/11

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

SEP 20 2011

Report Title: Doing Nothing About Education...
Report Date: 2010-11
Response by: E. Schott Title: Superintendent

FILED

FINDINGS

SEP 20 2011

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 3, 5, 7, 11, 17, 19,
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 16 BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.) This is not our experience. Records transfer in a timely fashion.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 9a, 9h, 9j, have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered 9i require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 9-8-11 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached _____

Sebastopol Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Sebastopol Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of 1 school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
- The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
- In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
- The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The transfer of cumulative records is efficient and timely in our experience.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows:

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 762. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 803.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-8.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 177 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 208 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 161 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 174

Louann Carlomagno, Superintendent
17850 Railroad Avenue
Sonoma, CA 95476
Ph 707.935.4246
Fx 707.939.2235



Trustees:
Gary DeSmet
Nicole Abaté Ducarroz
Daniel Gustafson
Camerino Hawing
Helen Marsh

SEP 23 2011

September 13, 2011

Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administrative Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step


Honorable Judge Nadler:

Pursuant to direction from the 2011 Civil Grand Jury, the Sonoma Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees submits the following attached response to the specified findings and recommendations.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Louann Carlomagno', written in black ink.

Louann Carlomagno
Superintendent

Approved: 
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/27/11

Sonoma Valley Unified School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

FILED
SEP 27 2011
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY:  DEPUTY CLERK

Sonoma Valley Unified School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disagrees with this finding, as it has been our experience that records are transferred in a timely fashion.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: SVUSD regularly communicates with parents regarding district testing results through Schoolsite Council Meetings, English Learner Advisory Committees and Parent Teacher Organization Meetings. Grade level performance data is shared at District Board meetings when data becomes available. Additionally, the County Office does not provide teacher grade level performance information.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District is keenly aware of the fiscal situation within our own district but does not feel qualified to state whether or not other school districts are failing financially. As a District, we have received Positive Certifications on our Interim Reports. Clearly, the funding from the State of California has declined dramatically over the last few years and schools are struggling financially throughout the state.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Sonoma Valley Unified School District is both a K-12 and basic aid district.

Recommendation 9

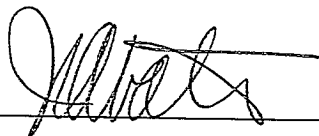
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 4223. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 4230.

- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is n/a.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit: Our income is higher when taxes are good, but with "fair share" cuts from the state of California, SVUSD is not necessarily deriving financial benefit.
- e. We currently have enrolled 4 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 2 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 118 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? Records are unavailable.
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 2 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 2 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

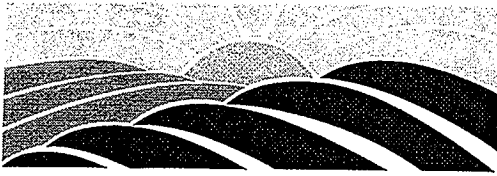
Date approved by District Board: 9/13/2011

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 9/13/11

Nicole Abate Ducarroz
Board President
Sonoma Valley Unified School District



Twin Hills School District

APPLE BLOSSOM | K-5
ORCHARD VIEW | K-12
SUNRIDGE | K-8
TWIN HILLS | 6-8

700 Watertrough Rd. | Sebastopol, CA 95472 | tel (707) 823-0871 | fax (707) 823-5832 | www.twinhillsusd.org

Approved: 
Superior Court Judge

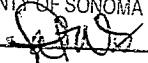
10/24/11

Date: October 19, 2011

Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FILED

OCT 24 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

RE: Response - Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option

Enclosed you will find a copy of our Grand Jury response which was discussed and approved by our Board of Trustees on October 13, 2011.

Please contact Superintendent Les Crawford if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Patty Nosecchi
Business Manager

Enclosure

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2011

The Superior Court of California
County of Sonoma
By _____ Deputy Clerk

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Doing Nothing About Education

Report Date: 9/22/11

Response by: Les Crawford Title: Supt.

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 5,7
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 3
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.) 3 - we have closed no schools

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1 + 9 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.) School Services did a joint study for Twin Hills and Sebastop. The study concluded that consolidation was a lose-lose.
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 9/22/11 Signed: Les Crawford

Number of pages attached _____

School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.

The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.

The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. *Our teachers teach and follow the state standards (by grade level). This supports our students being ready for high school.*

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. *We have not had problems sending or receiving student records*

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: *Our teachers are not evaluated on this basis and it would be a contract violation.*

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Twin Hills Dist. is not failing financially, despite a terrible economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on , 2007 . *School Services of Calif. did the study.*

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by , 20 .

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- * b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is *1074*. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was *1014*.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is . *K-8 with a K-12 charter*
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- * e. We currently have enrolled *760* students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were *600* students living outside district boundaries.
- * f. We currently have *45* students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? *52*

- g. There are currently 3 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 3 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- * i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board: 10/13/11

Respectfully submitted,



Date: 9/22/11

School District

SEP 27 2011

Two Rock Union School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins with One Step

Approved: *[Signature]*
Date: 9/27/11
Superior Court Judge

Two Rock Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FILED

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

SEP 27 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY CLERK

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The Open Enrollment Act has led to ethnically and academically segregated schools and negatively impacts a struggling school's potential for higher test scores. Schools rarely "fail." It is more often the case that some students present greater academic needs.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The system to transfer student records is not problematic at Two Rock Union School. In some cases, the transfer of student records may be delayed due to families relocating from great distances but this situation does not constitute a significant problem.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: Parents of Two Rock School students are mailed a STAR Student Report each year when STAR test results are received by the school district. The Report includes an introductory letter from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and a report of the child's scores on the

STAR tests. The Report also includes the child's scaled score and performance levels in each subject. Students in grades two through six are tested in English-language arts and mathematics. Students in grade five are also tested in science. Student progress is also measured through formative and summative assessments and the results are disseminated through trimester report cards and individual parent conferences

Measuring a teacher's grade level performance is dependent on STAR test results along with other variables which include instructional materials, parent support, class make-up, and administrative and board support. STAR test results are but one indicator of measuring teacher performance and do not take into account social and behavioral growth and/or progress from the beginning to the end of the school year.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. Creating larger or unified school districts which result in fiscal and programmatic gains is not necessarily accurate. The 2009-2010 District Financial Reporting Status indicates that some of the larger districts had "negative" or "qualified" certifications. There are programs which are required by governmental legislation that are not adequately funded by federal, state, and local sources. One example is special education services which are mandated but funded primarily through general education dollars. Other examples include employee insurance costs, health and safety programs, student transportation, food service programs, and mandated program costs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Approximately sixty percent of the student population of Two Rock School is comprised of students whose parents live and work on the nearby United States Coast Guard Base. The Two Rock Union School District receives Federal Impact Aid Revenue for these children and the revenues are utilized for

EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS

Recommendation 9


All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we
 invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 185. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 180.
- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No. If no, our current structure is K-6.
- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:
- e. We currently have enrolled 38 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 15 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have 19 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 14
- g. There are currently 0 dependent and 0 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 0 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.

- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

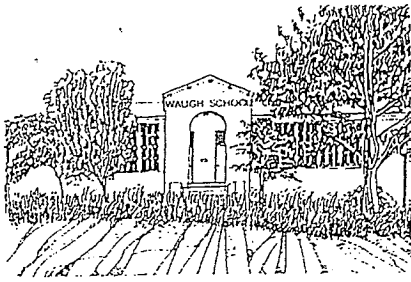
Date approved by District Board: September 14, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Superintendent / Principal
Two Rock Union School District

Date: September 14, 2011



WAUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1851 Hartman Lane • Petaluma • CA 94954

(707) 765-3331 • FAX (707) 782-9666

Superintendent • Scott Mahoney, Ed.D.

Board of Trustees • Fred Stoll • Julie Eitel • Matt Thomas • Karen Bergin • Dave Bachman

July 30, 2011

The Honorable Gary Nadler
Presiding Judge
Sonoma County Superior Court
Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Judge Nadler:

On behalf of the Waugh School District and pursuant to the requirements of California Penal Code Section 933C, I have enclosed our required responses to the 2010-11 Final Report of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury.

Providing a superior education for our students is the top priority of our school district. We live our mission daily to “relentlessly pursue success for all students.” The Board of Trustees’ careful management of financial resources has ensured our ability to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students into the future.

We have carefully reviewed the Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 933 and are pleased to enclose our required responses to the Grand Jury’s recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Stefanie Capps, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

cc: Board of Trustees

Corona Creek Elementary School
Scott Mahoney, Ed.D., Principal

1851 Hartman Lane
Petaluma, CA 94954
(707) 765-3331 FAX (707) 782-9666

*Relentlessly Pursuing
Success For All*

Meadow School
Melissa Becker, Principal

880 Maria Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954
(707) 762-4905 FAX (707) 762-5751

Approved: _____

Superior Court Judge

Date: _____

7/26/11

Grand Jury Report Responses
Waugh School District
Response to Recommendations and Findings
Grand Jury Report: Sonoma County Schools Report
Report dated June 30, 2011

FILED

JUL 26 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY KTW DEPUTY CLERK

Recommendation 1

School Districts should request a CCSDO study to determine if educational or financial benefits could be achieved through either consolidation or unification.

The Grand Jury Report states, "We recognize that while not all school districts may appear to benefit from consolidation/unification, all those that are now in immediate need of academic and financial improvements should begin to explore the possibility." We are happy to report that the students of the Waugh School District achieve at high rates and our district is in no immediate danger of financial collapse. We would like to provide some basic information about both our student achievement rates and our financial outlook so that the Grand Jury has an understanding of why we do not believe a study of consolidation is appropriate for our district at this time.

Student Achievement

Our district API (Academic Performance Index) score of 903 is the second highest in the county. The only district in the county with a higher API is Liberty School District, a neighboring small school district in the Petaluma area. We teach the California state standards and our students have flourished due to our teachers' hard work in aligning curriculum and instruction to the standards. The state standards along with statewide achievement testing have provided a critical role in ensuring that both our students and students in every other district have similar expectations and similar instruction. Our students continue to enjoy small class sizes in comparison to students in larger school districts. Our students succeed when they leave our school district to attend junior and senior high school as part of the Petaluma Joint Union High School District. We will address how we articulate with Kenilworth Junior High, our feeder school, in response to Finding 11.

Financial Outlook

The Waugh School District submitted the 2011-12 school budget with a positive certification and is not at risk of failing financially. As part of the budget analysis, the district develops multi-year projections to ensure financial stability over the next three years. The Grand Jury has proposed that unification or consolidation may be a solution to school districts' financial issues. However, it is interesting to note that five of the ten school districts with financial difficulties shown on the *Schedule of 2010-11 Financial Reporting* in the Appendix of the Grand Jury Report were unified school districts.

Our district has benefited from the Corona/Ely Community Facilities District No 1. The taxes that residents of the school district pay have allowed the district to build and equip the two schools that make up the Waugh School District.

The district enjoys a great deal of community support. Both schools have active PTA's and a district educational foundation (The Wise Foundation) which contributes approximately \$100,000 annually to provide art, music and other benefits to the students within the district.

Prudent fiscal management by the Board of Trustees has contributed to the financial stability of the district. The Board has been able to ensure financial stability by accumulating reserves for economic uncertainties beyond the required 4% of the district budget.

Given the unique circumstances of our district, The Board of Trustees, after hearing public comments, by a majority vote, respectfully declines to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, a summary of which will be published by the Grand Jury.

- a. Given the unique circumstances of our district, The Board of Trustees, after hearing public comments, by a majority vote, respectfully *declines* to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is *932 students (CBEDS)*. Enrollment for 2009-10 was *920 students (CBEDS)*.
- c. We are *not* currently a K-12 unified school district. *We are a K-6 school District.*
- d. We *are not* a Basic Aid District. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit (*not applicable*).
- e. We currently have enrolled *288* students living outside of district boundaries. Five years ago there were *223* students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have *19* students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. In 2005/2006 school year there were *22* students choosing to attend schools in other districts.
- g. There are currently *no* dependent and *no* independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were *no* dependent and *no* independent charter schools in our district.
- h. *Yes*, We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. See response to Finding 16.

- i. **Yes**, We currently *have* implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts most likely to receive our students and from whom we are likely to receive students. See response to Finding 11.
- j. **Yes**, We currently *have* Joint Power Agreements (JPA's) or similar significant shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Response to Grand Jury Findings

Finding 3: Some school districts are closing schools or anticipate declining enrollment and student enrollment county-wide is declining.

The Waugh School District enrollment has increased slightly over the past five years and does not anticipate the need to close schools.

Finding 5: State funding has decreased in California.
We agree with this finding.

Finding 7: Parents are able to take over failing schools (charter schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350).
We agree with this finding.

Finding 11 – Articulated curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The Waugh School District utilizes the California State Standards for Language Arts, Mathematics, History/Social Science and Science to guide curriculum and instruction. The state standards have been extremely helpful in the process of articulation between elementary, middle schools, and high schools across the state. The state standards guide school districts in determining what each student should know and be able to do at each grade level. The textbooks and materials our district uses are aligned to these standards and are approved by the state Board of Education.

In addition to the “built-in” articulation that state standards foster, our district works closely with the staff of Kenilworth Junior High to ensure a smooth transition both academically and socially to junior high. Teachers from our district meet periodically with our feeder school for articulation purposes. Kenilworth counselors visit our school district in the spring to meet with students and parents and our sixth grade students visit the junior high in the spring so that they are comfortable with their transition to junior high. In addition, sixth grade teachers meet with the junior high staff to review the needs of any student that they feel is at risk in the transition from elementary to junior high. Students in special education have transition IEP meetings that involve both special education and regular education teachers from both districts.

We also receive feedback from Kenilworth regarding how students have fared after their first semester at their new school. Our students are extremely well prepared for their junior high experience.

Finding 16 – Student Record transfers from one school district to another are problematic.

The Waugh School District promptly and routinely transfers student records to feeder schools. Student records are hand-delivered to our feeder junior high school no later than two weeks after the close of school in May. In addition, we promptly transfer STAR and CELDT student data to our feeder schools. We have not experienced long delays in receiving records for students from other school districts.

Finding 17: Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, this information is not disseminated routinely by districts.

The Waugh School District does not disseminate to parents data regarding individual teacher performance. The district does provide parents with ample information regarding the progress of their individual student. The district also provides information to parents and to the community regarding student achievement data by grade level and by school.

Finding 19 – Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially.

The Waugh School District submitted the 2011-12 school budget with a positive certification and is not at risk of failing financially.

WEST SIDE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

1201 Felta Road, Healdsburg, California 95448

707-433-3923 • Fax 707-431-8077

SEP 27 2011



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Quincey Imhoff President
Susan Buck Member
Tim Harrington Member
Ann Davis Member
Elvia Vega Member

Rhonda Bellmer, Superintendent/Principal

Approved:

Superior Court Judge

Date:

Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report Entitled

FILED

Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option

SEP 27 2011

The Journey Begins with One Step

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

West Side Union School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District disagrees partially with the finding as it relates to this district's enrollment. The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350.)

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District disagrees partially with the finding. We have not experienced any difficulties with record transfers between elementary schools in our area. We hand-deliver the student records of our sixth graders transferring to the local junior high school. Record transfers from schools outside of Sonoma County have been delayed at times.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District disagrees partially with this finding. We disseminate school-wide STAR testing data and results from our district multiple measures data to both our Board of Trustees and School Site Council. Parents receive their child's assessment data at parent-teacher conferences and throughout the year. Since we are a district with one teacher and one class per grade, our families can get this data from the California Department of Education website, which we direct them to.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding. For our district, increased enrollment, leveraging funds, donations from the community and our families, and finding creative solutions has helped us to weather these unprecedented, difficult, times in public school finance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. The cost of such a study would divert necessary funds from supporting services for children. Similar studies conducted in the past were costly, resulting in little change. A review of the smallest districts in Sonoma County will reveal sound budgets and solid academic standing.

Recommendation 9

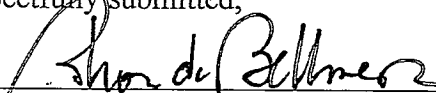
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:


- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors, we decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2011/2012 enrollment is 185 students. Enrollment for 2010/2011 was 175, and enrollment for 2009-10 was 170.
- c. We are currently a K-6 elementary school district.
- d. We are not currently classified as a Basic Aid District.
- e. We currently have enrolled 146 students living outside the District's boundaries. Five years ago there were 121 students living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently have two students living inside the District's boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. In 2005-2006 we had zero students choosing to attend schools in other districts.
- g. There are currently no dependent or independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were no charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have effective protocols with all surrounding districts to ensure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district.

- i. We currently have plans to ensure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that receive our students.
- j. We currently have Joint Power Agreements (JPAs), or similar shared cost saving plans, with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board of Trustees: September 8, 2011

Respectfully submitted,


Rhonda Bellmer, Superintendent/Principal
West Side Union School District


Quincey Imhoff, President, Board of Trustees
West Side Union School District

AUG 22 2011
WSC
UHSD

West Sonoma County Union High School District

462 Johnson Street, Sebastopol, California 95472
(707) 824-6403 (707) 823-2629 Fax

ANALY HIGH SCHOOL ♦ EL MOLINO HIGH SCHOOL
LAGUNA HIGH SCHOOL ♦ WEST SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

August 17, 2011

Approved: _____

Superior Court Judge

Date: _____

9/12/11

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court, State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FILED

AUG 22 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY _____ DEPUTY CLERK

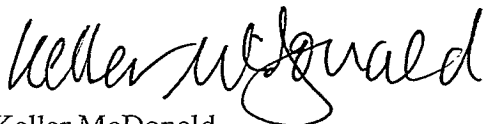
Dear Judge Nadler:

On behalf of the West Sonoma County Union High School District (WSCUHSD), and in accord with the requirements of California Penal Code Section 933C, I am responding to the 2010-2011 Final Report of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury. I wish to commend Foreperson Chris Christensen and the other members of the Grand Jury on their diligent efforts to investigate and report on current issues that impact our public school students across Sonoma County.

Our District Board of Education has carefully considered the Grand Jury's observations, findings and recommendations. In accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 933 of the California Penal Code, I am pleased to enclose our District's required response to Findings 3, 5, 7, 11, 16, 17, and 19 and Recommendations 1 and 9 pertaining to the Grand Jury report entitled, "Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option – The Journey Begins With One Step." The District has elected to also respond to Finding 6 of this report. In addition, our District's "Official Whistleblower Additional Response," pertaining to the Grand Jury report entitled, "What We Don't Know Could Hurt Us" is also enclosed.

Please contact my office if clarification or additional information is required.

Respectfully,



Keller McDonald
District Superintendent

cc: Foreperson, Sonoma County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

"The mission of the West Sonoma County Union High School District is to provide high quality instruction as student achievement is our top priority."



West Sonoma County Union High School District

462 Johnson Street, Sebastopol, California 95472

(707) 824-6403 (707) 823-2629 Fax

ANALY HIGH SCHOOL • EL MOLINO HIGH SCHOOL
LAGUNA HIGH SCHOOL • WEST SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

WEST SONOMA COUNTY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Response to 2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury report entitled
“Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option”**

**Submitted to District Board of Trustees for consideration of ratification on
August 10, 2011**

This is response of the West Sonoma County Union High School District (WSCUHSD or District) required by the 2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury to the Grand Jury report entitled, “Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option.” The District’s response covers the period starting with the 2006-2007 school year through the 2010-2011 school year, herein referred to as the “Five-Year Period.” This response is based on the facts and circumstances of this District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts in general.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

The District disagrees with the finding as it applies to this District. WSCUHSD has closed one school and opened one school in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budget/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 6 (A response is provided, although not required by the Grand Jury)

The District disagrees with this finding. Based on data posted on the DataQuest website linked to the California Department of Education website, the District’s graduation rate is not in decline for the five-year period. In fact, both the four-year derived dropout rate and the one-year dropout rates are trending lower in the five-year period. Nor is the District’s dropout rate increasing for the five-year period. The District’s graduation rate has hovered within a 2% variation in the five-year period. The District does not believe this variation is statistically significant.

“The mission of the West Sonoma County Union High School District is to provide high quality instruction as student achievement is our top priority.”

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350).

The District disagrees partially with this finding. Parent take-over of failing schools and Open Enrollment from failing schools applies only to the most persistently underperforming schools in the state, not to every school in the District or Sonoma County.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high school.

The District agrees with this finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from a school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District disagrees partially with this finding. WSCUHSD schools have not found transfer of student records to be particularly problematic. However, it usually takes several school days (infrequently more than 15 school days) between the time a District school requests a student record to be transferred and the time the District school receives the record from the sending school.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently a K-12 or basic aid district should request a County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.


The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools commissioned a study titled, "Reorganization Financial Analysis of the Territory of West Sonoma County Union High School District" in spring, 2006. The results of the study were inconclusive. It is not reasonable to expect a new study to produce conclusive findings regarding the educational and/or financial benefits that could be achieved from consolidation or unification of the West Sonoma County Union High School District with other West County school districts.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Trustees, the District declines to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.
- b. Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 2,261. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 2,344. (CBEDS enrollment from CDE DataQuest website)
- c. WSCUHSD is currently not a K-12 unified school district. Our current structure is a high school (secondary) school district.
- d. We are currently not classified as a Basic Aid District.
- e. We currently (October 2010) have enrolled 467 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago (October 2006), there were 384 student living outside district boundaries.
- f. We currently (October 2010) have 53 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. Five years ago (October 2006), there were 111 student living inside district boundaries who chose to attend schools in other districts.
- g. There are currently no dependent charter schools and no independent charter schools operating within our district that are chartered by the District. An independent charter high school that was chartered by the District closed in 2010 due to financial failure stemming from improper design and operation of the school's instructional program. There are numerous dependent and independent charter schools serving elementary and/or secondary grade levels chartered by other school districts within the physical geography of the West Sonoma County Union High School District.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district.
- i. We currently have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with other secondary school districts that may receive our grade 9-12 students or from whom we receive students. We have initiated meetings to foster curriculum articulation and coordination with our partner districts in West Sonoma County from whom we regularly receive incoming 9th grade students.
- j. We currently have Joint Power Agreements or similar shared cost savings plans with neighboring districts for a variety of services including (but not limited to) insurance services, student transportation, special education instructional services, telecommunication services, and student support services.

Approved:


Superior Court Judge

9/14/11

Wilmar Union School District
3775 Bodega Ave.
Petaluma, CA 94952
(707) 765-4340 fax (707) 765-4342

Wilson Elementary School

Home of the Wildcats


SEP 12 2011

September 9, 2011

FILED

SEP 14 2011

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall Justice
600 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

RE: Response to 2011 Civil Grand Jury Report

Honorable Judge Nadler:

I am writing in response to the 2011 Civil Grand Jury. I have enclosed the response from Wilmar Union Elementary School District. This document was presented to and approved by the Wilmar Board of Education as our official response.

We have responded to the specific recommendations and finding of the study titled: Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option. The Journey Begins With One Step. We have also responded to the questions from: The Need for a Whistleblower Program in Sonoma County.

I hope that you find our response comprehensive enough to validate the work of the Grand Jury. Thank you for your concern for education and the children in Sonoma County.

Sincerely,



Eric Hoppes, Principal/Superintendent
Wilmar District/Wilson Elementary School

Cc Chris Christensen, Foreperson
2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury

Working To Be Our Best, Every Day

Wilmar Union Elementary School District

3775 Bodega Avenue
Petaluma, CA 94952

From: Eric Hoppes, Superintendent
To: Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Subject: School District Consolidation/Unification
Date: September 8, 2011

The Grand Jury has required that each school district in the County respond to two Recommendations (R1 and R9) and to seven Findings (F3, F5, F7, F11, F16, F17, and F19).

The Wilmar Union Elementary School District responses are as follows:

Recommendation 1:

There are many elements besides educational and financial benefits which come into play when districts consider unification, including community pride in their school/district, traditions/values which are peculiar to each school, the ability to make changes without going through a maze of hierarchy, proximity to the local school, fear of losing a community institution, and perhaps many others.

It should be noted that on the 2009-2010 District Financial Reporting Status that only one or two (really) small schools had achieved negative or qualified fiscal status in their 2nd interim financial report. It appears that most small schools are more fiscally sound than several larger districts.

Still, with declining enrollment and California's troublesome budget, at least an initial, but comprehensive, fact finding study is a sensible move.

Recommendation 9:

- a) The district would cooperate with, but not initiate a funded study, the results of which do not necessarily dictate local Boards' actions.
- b) Current enrollment for 2011-12 is 234 students. Enrollment at P2 was 221 in 2010-2011 and 204 in 2009-2010.
- c) Wilmar Union Elementary School District is a one school (Wilson) K-6 District.
- d) Wilmar Union Elementary School District is not a Basic Aid District.
- e) Current inter-district students "IN" enrolled in Wilmar District is 61. Five years ago, we received 50 "IN" inter-district students.

- f) Current inter-district students “OUT” enrolled in another district is 32. We had 51 inter-district students “OUT” in 2005-2006 school year.
- g) Wilmar Union Elementary School District currently does not have any charter schools. There were no charter schools within this District five years ago.
- h) Wilmar Union Elementary School District office staff is diligent in both requesting and sending student files when students arrive or leave our district which insures complete and timely access to student records.
- i) Our articulated curriculum with Petaluma junior high schools is based following California State Standards and is supported by textbooks which are approved by the California Department of Education.
- j) Wilmar Union Elementary School District is involved in several consortiums with SCOE, RESIG, South County Schools (Special Education) and with other small (feeder) schools in the Petaluma area that provide shared cost savings.

Finding 3:

Wilmar Union Elementary School District is located just west of the City of Petaluma and in Sonoma County. Neither the County has actively sought to approve housing projects which would re-populate our District with a much-needed replenished resource of families with children.

Our student population consists of approximately 92% English only students and therefore 8% English Language Learners, all of whom have Spanish as the primary language at home. Our English Learner families tend to be stable and remain with us from Kindergarten through 6th grade. We currently have 22.2% low income families. Our (STAR) test scores have risen nearly 100 points in the past three years to a high of 876 API for 2010.

Finding 5:

Yes, State funding has decreased.

Finding 7:

The Open Enrollment Act has led to ethnically and academically segregated schools and negatively impacts a struggling school’s potential for higher test scores. Additionally, schools rarely “fail”; some simply have students who have greater academic needs. In some instances, schools that have low overall STAR test scores have teachers with better teaching strategies.

Finding 11:

Articulated curriculum only represents spiraled steps to learn the increasingly difficult content of specific subject areas. Unfortunately, learners advance through subject matters not on the basis of their age, but based upon their own individual brain prowess, interest, support at school and home, language ability, and physical abilities.

Finding 16:

The system to transfer student records is not problematic at Wilmar Union Elementary School District.

Finding 17:

Measuring a teacher's grade level performance is dependent upon several variables including parent support; instructional materials; administrative and Board support; the make-up of the class (low achievers, high achievers, heterogeneous group, legally disabled students, etc.).

It is much more realistic to determine whether a teacher has demonstrated "effectiveness" in leading each student toward gains in their academic/social/behavioral growth from the beginning of the school year to the end of that year. Public schools are held responsible by our State laws to teach the "whole" child and yet measure public schools only on the basis of test scores.

Finding 19:

The assumption that creating larger or unified school districts will result in both fiscal and programmatic gains is not necessarily true based upon your own 2009-2010 District Financial Reporting Status which have "negative" or "qualified" certifications and are larger districts.

It is our opinion that school districts are not failing financially but rather that schools are not being funded appropriately by federal, state, and local sources to provide for the cost of programs/services which are required by governmental legislation. An obvious example is the special education services which are mandated but funded primarily through general education dollars. Other examples include: mandated program costs which are seriously under-funded; limited transportation and food service programs; health and safety program costs; employee insurance costs; negotiated rights.

These programs are important for our public school. They are required but not adequately funded.

**Windsor Unified School District's
Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Report Entitled
Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
*The Journey Begins with One Step***

GRAND JURY

OCT 11 2011

RECEIVED

Windsor Unified School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

FINDINGS

Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

- The District agrees with the finding. The District closed a total of school(s) in the Five-Year Period.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

- The District agrees with the finding.
- The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's enrollment has not declined.
 - The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.
 - In the Five-Year Period the District's budgets/revenues have not declined.
 - The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350)

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. We are not aware of any instances where this has occurred. Typically records are transferred within a few days.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. The District disseminates such data as follows: Information is not disseminated by teacher from the district or SCOE. However statistical information by school and grade level is available.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District agrees with the finding.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding. We decline to comment as this response is outside of the scope of our individual district.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation has been implemented. The District requested a CCSD study on _____, 20_____.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The District intends to request a CCSD study by _____, 20_____.

The recommendation requires further analysis. Within six months from the date of publication of the Report, the District intends to do the following to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. 1. The Windsor Unified School District is already unified. 2. We believe this action is outside of the scope of the CCSD.

Recommendation 9

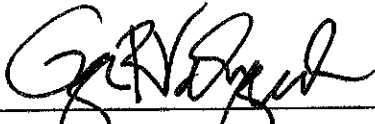
All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. **After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we**
 invite **decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.**
- b. **Current 2010/2011 enrollment is 5324 Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 5319.**
- c. **We are currently a K-12 unified school district.** **Yes.** **No.** **If no, our current structure is _____.**
- d. **We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District.** **Yes.** **No.** **As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:**
- e. **We currently have enrolled 501 students living outside district boundaries. Five years ago there were 176 students living outside district boundaries.**

- f. We currently have 296 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. How many such students were there in the 2005-2006 school year? 222
- g. There are currently 1 dependent and 2 independent charter schools operating within our district. Five years ago there were 1 dependent and 0 independent charter school districts in our district.
- h. We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district. Yes. No.
- i. We currently have or have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.
- j. We currently have or do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.

Date approved by District Board:

Respectfully submitted,



George R. Valenzuela, President
Windsor Unified School District

Date: August 31, 2011

Windsor Unified School District

Wright School District's

Response to 2010-11 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury

Report Entitled

*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option
the Journey Begins with One Step*

GRAND JURY
SEP 6 2011
RECEIVED

Wright School District (hereinafter "the District") responds to the above-referenced Report as set forth below. The District's Response covers the period commencing with the 2006-07 school year through the 2010-11 school year (hereinafter "Five-Year Period") and is based on the facts and circumstances of the District in particular rather than Sonoma County school districts generally.

RESPONSE TO FINDINGS

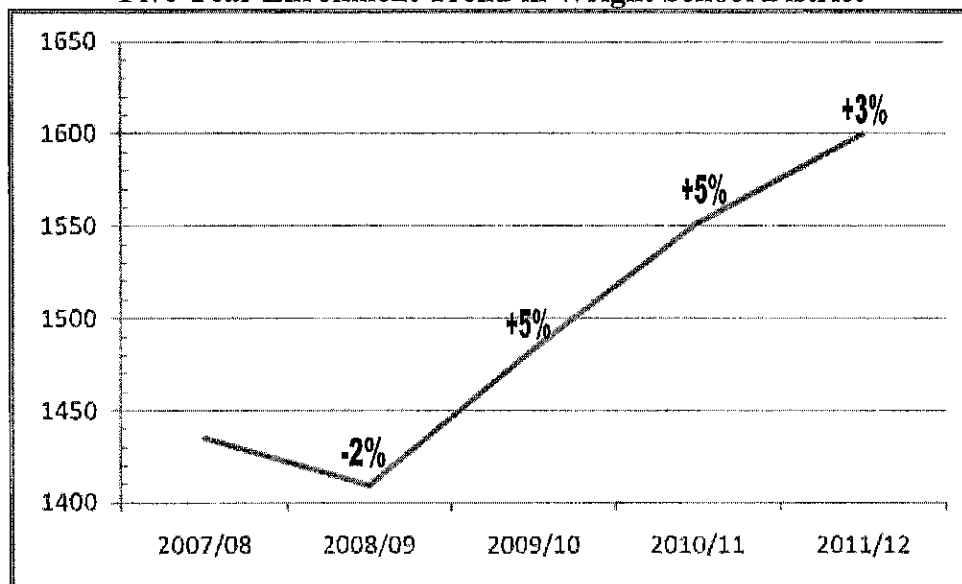
Finding 3

School districts are closing schools.

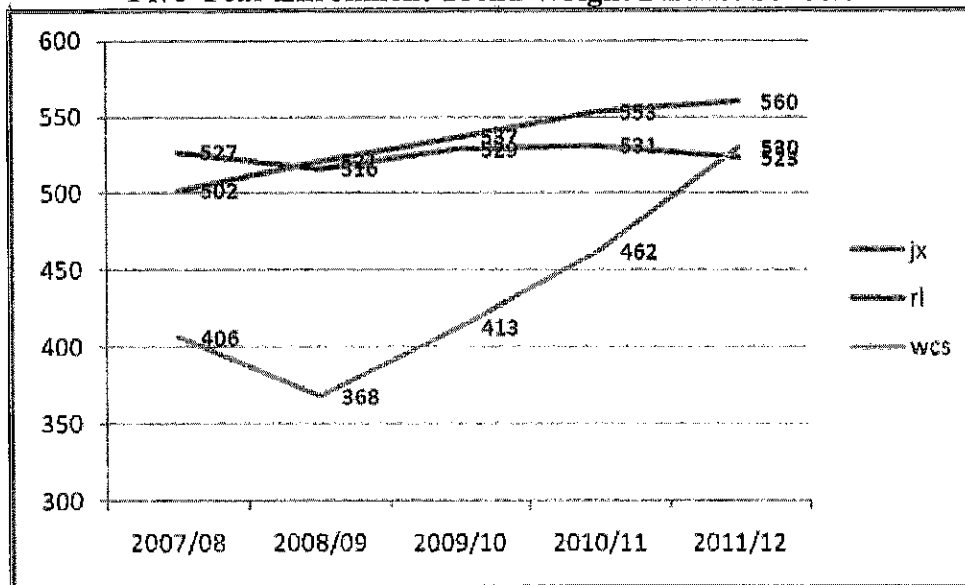
The District disagrees wholly with the finding. The Wright District has not closed any schools in the Five-Year Period.

Wright School District has not closed, or even considered closing schools in its 150-year history. The District is continuing to increase enrollment, and anticipates the need for a 4th school site within the next 5 years.

Five Year Enrollment Trend in Wright School District



Five-Year Enrollment Trend Wright District Schools



Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly with the finding. The District's anticipated enrollment for 2011-12 is expected to be greater than in 2010-11. The District's budget/revenue in 2011-12 is expected to be equal to or greater than in 2010-11.

Per student revenue has declined over the last five years due to the state's budget woes. Due to the increasing enrollment trend in the Wright District however, it is expected that revenue will continue to rise.

Important Note:

Administrator Ratio... Inaccurate Grand Jury Back-up Documentation

The Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report provided to the District included inaccurate back-up documentation. The document entitled *Current Sonoma County School District Information* lists an inaccurate number of administrators for the Wright School District. The Wright School District has 4 administrators, and not the erroneously listed number of 8 as reflected in the Grand Jury Report supporting documents.

Finding 5

State funding has decreased in California.

The District agrees with the finding.

State funding has decreased in California, with school revenues having diminished more than 20% since 2006-07. Despite an enrollment increase in the Wright School District, the full

amount of increased revenue will not be realized due to continued deficated budget amounts to districts from the state.

Finding 7

Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools. (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350).

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Parents are not able to “take over” a school that has less than required student achievement. Parents can move their children out of such schools and into schools that are doing better. The District’s schools continue to offer quality programs and parents are attracted to the level of instruction. This is shown by the overall increase in students transferring into the district.

Wright District does not have any “failing” schools. JX Wilson was recently awarded a National Blue Ribbon and has been named a California Distinguished School. Robert L. Stevens was recently awarded a Distinguished School Award and a Title 1 Achievement Award. Wright Charter School, while in program improvement, has continued to raise students test scores and enhance its curriculum to attract more families. All three schools are at a five year high in enrollment.

Finding 11

Articulated Curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

The District agrees partially with the finding.

A review of student achievement across the state indicates that educational systems spanning grades K-12 are far more likely to be indicated as “failing” systems than those configured to educate students in grades K-8. Articulating curriculum expectations and learning outcomes is a critical aspect of a high achieving educational system, however, anecdotal and empirical evidence indicates that curriculum articulation is no more likely to work “better” in a K-12 system, than in a K-8 system. In fact, a review of successful educational systems statewide indicate smaller systems actually achieve a better educational result.

Finding 16

Student record transfers from school district to another are problematic. In some instances it can take up to a year to get records transferred within Sonoma County.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Wright District Schools have not experienced systemic issues with student record transfer. Most records are sent or received within a 1-2 week period. Office staff maintain a log of when records are sent and will occasionally hand deliver a student’s file to a receiving school.

Finding 17

Parents can get statistical data for a teacher's grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

The District disseminates such data as follows: Grade level performance information is available for each school. Individual teacher data is expressly forbidden in Education Code to be disseminated to the public.

Finding 19

Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule 2010-11 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

The District disagrees wholly or partially with the finding.

Some districts are experiencing serious financial difficulties. However, even during the most recent economic downturn, and a fiscal crisis at the state level, Wright School District has remained fiscally solvent and financially sound.

It is interesting to note that of the nine school districts displaying financial distress in the Grand Jury's report, four of these are unified districts, and one is a common administrative district, which also serves students from K-12. These districts include the largest district in Sonoma County, Santa Rosa City Schools, and the largest unified school district, Cotati-Rohnert Park USD.

Only three of these ten districts are elementary school districts. Of the 37 districts listed in the appendix, seven serve a K-12 population, and five of them, or 71% are showing financial distress, compared to the 4 of 31 elementary and high school districts, which equates to just 13%.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently in a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSD study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved.

The recommendation requires further analysis.

Wright School District declines to invite a CCSD study at this time. Upon publication of the full report and responses, the Governing Board will consider whether to participate in a study led by the Office of the Superintendent of Sonoma County Schools. The District intends to review the final published summary and Report of Findings and Recommendations of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report entitled "*Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option; The Journey Begins with One Step.*" The review will include an analysis of the responses of member districts, as well as a review of current enrollment trends within the district to determine whether to request a CCSD study.

Recommendation 9

All 40 Districts in Sonoma County shall respond to the following questions, which will be published by the Grand Jury:

- a. After hearing public comments and by a majority of the Board of Directors we invite decline to cooperate with a SCOE funded study to discover whether there could be benefits to both educational and financial costs in district consolidation.

At this point, Wright School District declines to invite a SCOE funded study. Upon publication of the full report and responses, the Governing Board will consider whether to participate in a study led by the Office of the Superintendent of Sonoma County Schools.

- b. Current District enrollment is 1,607. Enrollment at the end of 2010/2011 was 1,560. Enrollment for 2009/2010 was 1,481.

- c. We are currently a K-12 unified school district. Yes. No.

Our current structure is K-6, with one K-8 dependent charter school, Wright Charter School, operating within the district. One independent charter school, Pivot Online Charter School, is chartered through the Oak Grove School District and located within Wright District Boundaries.

- d. We are currently classified as a Basic Aid District. Yes. No. As a Basic Aid District we derive the following financial benefit:


- e. We have approximately 330 students attending District Schools from outside District boundaries. Five years ago, there were about 350 students attending schools from outside district boundaries.

There have been transfer student waiting lists for kindergarten each year for the last 4 years.

- f. **We currently have 215 students living inside district boundaries who have chosen to attend schools in other districts. Five years ago there were 350 students living inside district boundaries that chose to attend schools in other districts.**
- g. **There are currently one dependent and one independent charter schools operating within our district.** Pivot Online Charter School, an independent charter school, is chartered through the Oak Grove School District and located within Wright District Boundaries. **Five years ago there were no dependent or independent charter schools in our district.**
- h. **We currently have developed effective protocols with all surrounding districts to insure complete and timely access to student records transferring in or out of our district.** Yes. No.
- i. **We currently** **have or** **have not implemented coordinated plans to insure articulation and basic curriculum compatibility with those districts that may receive our students or who our districts feed students to.**
- j. **We currently** **have or** **do not have Joint Power Agreements (JPAS), or similar shared cost saving plans with neighboring districts.**

Date approved by District Board: September 15, 2011.

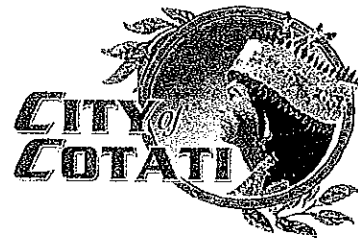
Respectfully submitted,



Stan Greenberg, Board President
Wright School District

Date: September 15, 2011

City of Cotati
Sonoma County, California



Approved: MM
Superior Court Judge
Date: 10/3/11

September 15, 2011

FILED

OCT - 3 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

The Honorable Judge Gary Nadler
Presiding Judge, Superior Court, State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa CA 95403

Chris Christenson, Foreperson
2011-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Re: 2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report dated June 29, 2011

Dear Judge Gary Nadler and Foreperson Chris Christensen,

This letter is written on behalf of the City of Cotati in response to the 2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report dated June 29, 2011 as required for Final Report sections *Education, doing nothing -- not an option* and *Whistleblower Program, Can we do better?*.

We appreciate the hard work of the Sonoma County Grand Jury members on behalf of the citizens of Sonoma County, and thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Janet Orchard
Mayor

City of Cotati responses to the 2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report dated June 29, 2011

EDUCATION, DOING NOTHING – NOT AN OPTION

F8. Certain elected bodies (city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a special district or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of, a school district) may request the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) to do a study on unification/consolidation (E.C. #35721 (c)).

Response to F8. "Education Code 35721 (c) more accurately provides that certain elected bodies, by resolution of a majority of the body, may request the Committee on School District Organization to hold a public hearing to consider unification or other reorganization and we agree with this statement.

R2. Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.

Response to R2. The City of Cotati is served by the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District, which is already unified.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM, CAN WE DO BETTER?

F1. Sonoma County offices follow state law by posting the State Attorney General's hotline number on employee bulletin boards.

Response to F1. The City of Cotati agrees with this finding.

F2. Many of the larger counties and several cities in California have created their own whistleblower programs. Most are provided only for their own employees.

Response to F2. The City of Cotati agrees with this finding.

F3. There is no central administrator in Sonoma County to report evidence of waste, fraud and abuse among the multitude of local governmental organizations and to ensure that a fair and confidential investigation takes place.

Response to F3. We partially agree with this finding; however, the City of Cotati acknowledges that the County of Sonoma provides a variety of access points for a complainant to come forward with issues in a safe and effective manner.

F4. The cost to implement a whistleblower program applicable to all governmental units in Sonoma County would be modest and initially focused on publicizing contact information and educating employees and citizens about its availability.

Response to F4. We disagree with this finding. The City of Cotati does not believe that a central county whistleblower reporting location is financially feasible or warranted.

R1. Every governmental unit: county, city, school board or special district should encourage employees and citizens alike to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse issues to a central county reporting location. This local whistleblower hotline should be administered by the Civil Grand Jury or the Auditor-Controller's office to provide anonymity and assurance that investigations will be thorough and impartial for any government entity in Sonoma County. Why would the Grand Jury want the County of Sonoma to provide this service and include cities and other government entities? We suggest this for the greater good of the citizens!

Response to R1. The City of Cotati concurs that employees and citizens should be encouraged to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse and to that end it adheres to all state and federal whistleblower requirements and has in place specific complaint processes such as its Police Complaint form and Anti-Harassment Policy. Furthermore, contact information is easily accessible for the City Council and the City Manager. City Council meetings also provide a venue for citizens to provide public comment and complaints to the City Council. Citizens also have the right to file a complaint with the Grand Jury. Given these processes already in place, the City of Cotati does not believe that a central county whistleblower reporting location is feasible or warranted.

R2. When a Sonoma County central whistleblower program and administrator is established, every governmental unit should provide clear, easily accessible information about the program and 24- hour hotline on their websites, in their employee training and as a notice on employee bulletin boards.

Response to R2. As noted above, the City of Cotati does not believe that a central county whistleblower reporting location is feasible or warranted; however, the City would provide clear, easily accessible information as required if an office were designated for the City Council and City Manager on its website.


R3. The county budget for 2011/2012 and forward, include the cost of a commercial whistleblower hotline service (est. less than \$15,000/ yr), either as part of the operating budget of the Civil Grand Jury or the office of the Auditor / Controller.

Response to R3. As noted above, the City of Cotati does not believe that a central county whistleblower reporting location is feasible or warranted; however, the City agrees that annual reporting for public entities is appropriate.

R4. The designated office for Sonoma County should provide an annual report to the public on the whistleblower program including such information as the total number of whistleblower complaints received, the number of complaints that were formally investigated, and the dollar value (if applicable) that was recovered.

Response to R4. As noted above, the City of Cotati does not believe that a central county whistleblower reporting location is feasible or warranted.


CITY OF
CLOVERDALE


Approved: 
Date: 10/2/11
Superior Court Judge

September 30, 2011

Chris Christensen, Foreperson
Sonoma County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

FILED

OCT 12 2011

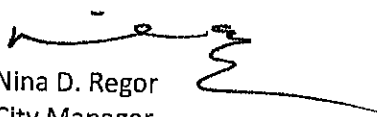
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY  DEPUTY CLERK

Re: Grand Jury Final Report – Sonoma County Schools

Dear Mr. Christensen:

This letter is written on behalf of the City of Cloverdale in response to the Grand Jury's Final Report of 2010-11 – *Doing Nothing about Education Is No Longer an Option*. The City of Cloverdale was required to respond to Finding F8 and Recommendation R2. Attached is the City of Cloverdale's response.

Sincerely,


Nina D. Regor
City Manager

Cc: Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option

Report Date: June 30, 2011

Response by: Nina D. Regor, City Manager

FINDINGS

F8: Certain elected bodies (city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a special district or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of, a school district) may request the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) to do a study on unification/consolidation (E.C. #35721 (c)).

Response to F8: While the City of Cloverdale concedes that the state has granted city councils the authority to request a study on unification/consolidation, the City does not have the expertise to evaluate whether such a study is necessary. At its meeting on August 24, 2011, the City Council discussed this topic, and forwarded it to the Joint City Council/Cloverdale Unified School District (CUSD) Committee, in which the agencies discuss issues of common concern. The Joint Committee will discuss the Report at a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R2: Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.

Response to R2: Recommendation numbered R2 requires further analysis. The City does not have the expertise to evaluate whether such a study is necessary. At its meeting on August 24, the City Council discussed this topic, and forwarded it to the Joint City Council/Cloverdale Unified School District (CUSD) Committee, in which the agencies discuss issues of common concern. The Joint Committee will discuss the Report at a future meeting, and the City will take its lead from the CUSD.

Date: September 30, 2011

Signed: _____



Number of pages attached: 1



CITY OF HEALDSBURG

ADMINISTRATION

401 Grove Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448-4723
Phone: (707) 431-3317
Fax: (707) 431-3321
Visit us at www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us

August 16, 2011

Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Sonoma County Superior Court
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: 2010-2011 Grand Jury Final Report
Response from City of Healdsburg

Dear Judge Nadler:

The City of Healdsburg ("Healdsburg") respectfully submits the following responses to the fiscal year 2010-2011 Grand Jury Report. Healdsburg was requested or required to respond to items in the following Report topics: **"Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer An Option"** and **"What We Don't Know Could Hurt Us: The Need For A Whistleblower Program In Sonoma County:"**

"Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer An Option"

R2. *Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO (County Commission on School District Organization) study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.*

Healdsburg's Response: Recommendation numbered R2 will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The entire City of Healdsburg is served by a single school district, the Healdsburg Unified School District. Therefore, consolidation is neither necessary nor warranted.

The City of Healdsburg does not have the financial resources to initiate a CCSDO study. Furthermore, the City defers to the school district(s) and stakeholders to determine whether such investigation is warranted.

"What We Don't Know Could Hurt Us: The Need For A Whistleblower Program In Sonoma County"

R1. *Every governmental unit: county, city, school board or special district should encourage employees and citizens alike to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse issues to a central county reporting location. This local whistleblower hotline should be administered by the Civil Grand Jury or the Auditor-Controller's office to provide anonymity and assurance that investigations will be thorough and impartial for any government entity in Sonoma County. Why would the Grand Jury want the County of Sonoma to provide this service and include cities and other government entities? We suggest this for the greater good of the citizens!*

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge

Date: 8/24/11

FILED

AUG 24 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
August 16, 2011
Page 2

R2. *When a Sonoma County central whistleblower program and administrator is established, every governmental unit should provide clear, easily accessible information about the program and 24-hour hotline on their websites, in their employee training and as a notice on employee bulletin boards.*

R3. *The county budget for 2011-2012 and forward, include the cost of a commercial whistleblower hotline service (est. less than \$15,000/year), either as part of the operating budget of the Civil Grand Jury or the office of the Auditor-Controller.*

R4. *The designated office for Sonoma County should provide an annual report to the public on the whistleblower program including such information as the total number of whistleblower complaints received, the number of complaints that were formally investigated, and the dollar value (if applicable) that was recovered.*

Healdsburg's Response: Recommendations numbered R1, R2, R3 and R4 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or reasonable.

The City of Healdsburg adheres to all state and federal whistleblower requirements. A process is in place for the investigation of complaints pertaining to fraud, abuse and unsafe practices. This process provides for the confidentiality of the reporting party, thorough investigation into the allegations and proposed corrective action as warranted.

The Grand Jury report estimates a cost of less than \$15,000 per year for a commercial whistleblower hotline service, but the report provides no information on the cost of follow up, investigation, and/or enforcement activities. The City of Healdsburg is not in a position to determine the ability of the Grand Jury or Sonoma County Auditor-Controller's office, or any other County agency to support or implement a county-wide whistleblower program, either financially or administratively.

Please accept this letter as the response of the City of Healdsburg and thank you for your consideration of same. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Chambers
Mayor, City of Healdsburg

cc: Chris Christensen, Grand Jury Foreperson
Marjie Pettus, City Manager
City Council

AUG 22 2011

FILED

AUG 22 2011

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 8/22/11

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Special Whistleblower Additional Response

1. Do you post copies of the state whistleblower statutes and hotline number in your employee break room? Yes No
2. How would an employee allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed within your organization?
Directed to District's Uniform Complaint Policy BP1312.3(a)
3. How would a citizen allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed within your organization?
See above
4. Do you believe that present laws and practices provide an adequate safeguard for your organization and for those individuals who may wish to report wrongdoing? If yes, please explain.
 Yes No see attached BP1312.3(a) for details
5. Do you believe that a local twenty-four hour hot line, additional assurance of confidentiality and summary annual reports to the citizens would be of substantial value when managing increasingly scarce governmental resources? Yes No
6. Given time and adequate description of a proposed structure and process, would you consider formally adopting a resolution to participate in a countywide whistleblower program administered by either the Grand Jury or the County Auditor-Controller office? Yes No
7. Comments:
Attached Healdsburg Unified School District's Uniform Complaint Procedures BP1212.3(a)

By Jeff Harding, Superintendent

For Healdsburg Unified School District

Community Relations

BP 1312.3(a)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The Board of Trustees recognizes that the district is primarily responsible for complying with applicable state and federal laws and regulations governing educational programs. The district shall investigate complaints alleging failure to comply with such laws and/or alleging discrimination and shall seek to resolve those complaints in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures. (5 CCR 4620)

The district shall follow uniform complaint procedures when addressing complaints alleging unlawful discrimination against any protected group as identified under Education Code 200 and 220 and Government Code 11135, including actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability, or age, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in any district program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance. (5 CCR 4610)

Uniform complaint procedures shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in adult education programs, consolidated categorical aid programs, migrant education, career technical and technical education and career technical and technical training programs, child care and development programs, child nutrition programs, and special education programs. (5 CCR 4610)

- (cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)*
- (cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)*
- (cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)*
- (cf. 3553 - Free and Reduced Price Meals)*
- (cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)*
- (cf. 5141.4 - Child Abuse Prevention and Reporting)*
- (cf. 5148 - Child Care and Development)*
- (cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)*
- (cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)*
- (cf. 6174 - Education for English Language Learners)*
- (cf. 6175 - Migrant Education Program)*
- (cf. 6178 - Career Technical Education)*
- (cf. 6200 - Adult Education)*

Complaints related to sufficiency of textbooks or instructional materials, emergency or urgent facilities conditions that pose a threat to the health or safety of students or staff, and teacher vacancies and misassignments shall be investigated pursuant to the district's Williams uniform complaint procedure (AR 1312.4).

- (cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)*

The Board encourages the early, informal resolution of complaints at the site level whenever possible.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

The Board acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. Discrimination complaints shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This may include keeping the identity of the complainant confidential, as appropriate and except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation or proceedings, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, on a case-by-case basis.

(cf. 4119.23/4219.23/4319.23 - Unauthorized Release of Confidential/Privileged Information)
(cf. 5125 - Student Records)
(cf. 9011 - Disclosure of Confidential/Privileged Information)

The Board prohibits any form of retaliation against any complainant in the complaint process, including but not limited to a complainant's filing of a complaint or the reporting of instances of discrimination. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades, or work assignments of the complainant.

The Board recognizes that a neutral mediator can often suggest a compromise that is agreeable to all parties in a dispute. In accordance with uniform complaint procedures, whenever all parties to a complaint agree to try resolving their problem through mediation, the Superintendent or designee shall initiate that process. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the results are consistent with state and federal laws and regulations.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination
- 8200-8498 Child care and development programs
- 8500-8538 Adult basic education
- 18100-18203 School libraries
- 32289 School safety plan, uniform complaint procedure
- 35186 Williams uniform complaint procedure
- 41500-41513 Categorical education block grants
- 48985 Notices in language other than English
- 49060-49079 Student records
- 49490-49590 Child nutrition programs
- 52160-52178 Bilingual education programs
- 52300-52490 Career-technical education
- 52500-52616.24 Adult schools
- 52800-52870 School-based coordinated programs
- 54000-54028 Economic impact aid programs
- 54100-54145 Miller-Unruh Basic Reading Act
- 54400-54425 Compensatory education programs
- 54440-54445 Migrant education
- 54460-54529 Compensatory education programs
- 56000-56867 Special education programs
- 59000-59300 Special schools and centers
- 64000-64001 Consolidated application process

PENAL CODE

- 422.6 Interference with constitutional right or privilege

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

- 3080 Application of section
- 4600-4687 Uniform complaint procedures
- 4900-4965 Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

- 6301-6577 Title I basic programs
- 6601-6777 Title II preparing and recruiting high quality teachers and principals
- 6801-6871 Title III language instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students
- 7101-7184 Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act
- 7201-7283g Title V promoting informed parental choice and innovative programs
- 7301-7372 Title V rural and low-income school programs

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

- CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>
- California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>
- U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR>

Policy

adopted: April 21, 2010

HEALDSBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Healdsburg, California

Community Relations

AR 1312.3(a)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Compliance Officers

The Board of Trustees designates the following compliance officer(s) to receive and investigate complaints and to ensure district compliance with law:

Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Healdsburg Unified School District
1028 Prince Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
707-431-3480

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that employees designated to investigate complaints are knowledgeable about the laws and programs for which they are responsible. Designated employees may have access to legal counsel as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

(cf. 9124 - Attorney)

Notifications

The Superintendent or designee shall annually provide written notification of the district's uniform complaint procedures to students, employees, parents/guardians, the district advisory committee, school advisory committees, appropriate private school officials or representatives, and other interested parties. (5 CCR 4622)

The Superintendent or designee shall make available copies of the district's uniform complaint procedures free of charge. (5 CCR 4622)

The notice shall:

1. Identify the person(s), position(s), or unit(s) responsible for receiving complaints
2. Advise the complainant of any civil law remedies that may be available to him/her under state or federal discrimination laws, if applicable
3. Advise the complainant of the appeal process pursuant to Education Code 262.3, including the complainant's right to take a complaint directly to the California Department of Education (CDE) or to pursue remedies before civil courts or other public agencies
4. Include statements that:
 - a. The district is primarily responsible for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

- b. The complaint review shall be completed within 60 calendar days from the date of receipt of the complaint unless the complainant agrees in writing to an extension of the timeline
- c. An unlawful discrimination complaint must be filed not later than six months from the date the alleged discrimination occurs, or six months from the date the complainant first obtains knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination
- d. The complainant has a right to appeal the district's decision to the CDE by filing a written appeal within 15 days of receiving the district's decision
- e. The appeal to the CDE must include a copy of the complaint filed with the district and a copy of the district's decision

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

Procedures

The following procedures shall be used to address all complaints which allege that the district has violated federal or state laws or regulations governing educational programs. Compliance officers shall maintain a record of each complaint and subsequent related actions, including all information required for compliance with 5 CCR 4631 and 4633.

All parties involved in allegations shall be notified when a complaint is filed, when a complaint meeting or hearing is scheduled, and when a decision or ruling is made.

Step 1: Filing of Complaint

Any individual, public agency, or organization may file a written complaint of alleged noncompliance by the district. (5 CCR 4630)

A complaint alleging unlawful discrimination shall be initiated no later than six months from the date when the alleged discrimination occurred, or six months from the date when the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination. A complaint may be filed by a person who alleges that he/she personally suffered unlawful discrimination or by a person who believes that an individual or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to unlawful discrimination. (5 CCR 4630)

The complaint shall be presented to the compliance officer who shall maintain a log of complaints received, providing each with a code number and date.

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

If a complainant is unable to put a complaint in writing due to conditions such as a disability or illiteracy, district staff shall assist him/her in the filing of the complaint. (5 CCR 4600)

Step 2: Investigation of Complaint

The compliance officer is encouraged to hold an investigative meeting within five days of receiving the complaint. This meeting shall provide an opportunity for the complainant and/or his/her representative to repeat the complaint orally.

The complainant and/or his/her representative shall have an opportunity to present the complaint and evidence or information leading to evidence to support the allegations in the complaint. (5 CCR 4631)

A complainant's refusal to provide the district's investigator with documents or other evidence related to the allegations in the complaint, or his/her failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or his/her engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in the dismissal of the complaint because of a lack of evidence to support the allegation. (5 CCR 4631)

The district's refusal to provide the investigator with access to records and/or other information related to the allegation in the complaint, or its failure or refusal to cooperate in the investigation or its engagement in any other obstruction of the investigation, may result in a finding, based on evidence collected, that a violation has occurred and may result in the imposition of a remedy in favor of the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

Step 3: Response

Within 30 days of receiving the complaint, the compliance officer shall prepare and send to the complainant a written report of the district's investigation and decision, as described in Step #4 below. If the complainant is dissatisfied with the compliance officer's decision, he/she may, within five days, file his/her complaint in writing with the Board.

The Board may consider the matter at its next regular Board meeting or at a special Board meeting convened in order to meet the 60-day time limit within which the complaint must be answered. The Board may decide not to hear the complaint, in which case the compliance officer's decision shall be final.

If the Board hears the complaint, the compliance officer shall send the Board's decision to the complainant within 60 days of the district's initial receipt the complaint or within the time period that has been specified in a written agreement with the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

Step 4: Final Written Decision

The district's decision shall be in writing and sent to the complainant. (5 CCR 4631)

The district's decision shall be written in English and in the language of the complainant whenever feasible or as required by law.

The decision shall include:

1. The findings of fact based on the evidence gathered (5 CCR 4631)
2. The conclusion(s) of law (5 CCR 4631)
3. Disposition of the complaint (5 CCR 4631)
4. Rationale for such disposition (5 CCR 4631)
5. Corrective actions, if any are warranted (5 CCR 4631)
6. Notice of the complainant's right to appeal the district's decision within 15 days to the CDE and procedures to be followed for initiating such an appeal (5 CCR 4631)
7. For discrimination complaints, notice that the complainant must wait until 60 days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies (Education Code 262.3)

If an employee is disciplined as a result of the complaint, the decision shall simply state that effective action was taken and that the employee was informed of district expectations. The report shall not give any further information as to the nature of the disciplinary action.

Appeals to the California Department of Education

If dissatisfied with the district's decision, the complainant may appeal in writing to the CDE within 15 days of receiving the district's decision. When appealing to the CDE, the complainant must specify the basis for the appeal of the decision and whether the facts are incorrect and/or the law has been misapplied. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the locally filed complaint and a copy of the district's decision. (5 CCR 4632)

Upon notification by the CDE that the complainant has appealed the district's decision, the Superintendent or designee shall forward the following documents to the CDE: (5 CCR 4633)

1. A copy of the original complaint

UNIFORM COMPLAINT PROCEDURES (continued)

2. A copy of the decision
3. A summary of the nature and extent of the investigation conducted by the district, if not covered by the decision
4. A copy of the investigation file, including but not limited to all notes, interviews, and documents submitted by the parties and gathered by the investigator
5. A report of any action taken to resolve the complaint
6. A copy of the district's complaint procedures
7. Other relevant information requested by the CDE

The CDE may directly intervene in the complaint without waiting for action by the district when one of the conditions listed in 5 CCR 4650 exists, including cases in which the district has not taken action within 60 days of the date the complaint was filed with the district.

Civil Law Remedies

A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of the district's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders. For discrimination complaints, however, a complainant must wait until 60 days have elapsed from the filing of an appeal with the CDE before pursuing civil law remedies. The moratorium does not apply to injunctive relief and is applicable only if the district has appropriately, and in a timely manner, apprised the complainant of his/her right to file a complaint in accordance with 5 CCR 4622.

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: **Doing Nothing About Education Is No longer an Option**

Report Date: September 12, 2011

Response by: David Glass Title: Mayor and
John C. Brown Title: City Manager

FINDINGS

F-8 Certain elected bodies (city and town council, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a special district or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of, a school district) may request the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) to do a study on unification/consolidation (E.C. #35721 (c)).

Petaluma's Response: We agree with the finding numbered F-8.

In January 2011 the retired Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools appeared before the Petaluma City Council and during the public comment portion of the agenda advocated his position that school districts within Petaluma give full consideration to school district consolidation. While no formal action was taken, individual Councilmembers expressed support for and encouraged such an analysis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R-2 Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study or educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.


Petaluma's Response: Recommendation numbered R-2 has been implemented.

In April 2011 the Old Adobe School District Governing Board accepted the invitation from Petaluma City Schools to pursue a study of school district consolidation. In June 2011 the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) authorized a study to analyze the consolidation of the Petaluma City Schools and Old Adobe Union School District. The study is funded by SCOE, and is expected to begin during the summer of 2011 and take approximately 8 months to complete.

Date: 9-14-11

Signed: 
David Glass, Mayor

Date: 9-13-11

Signed: 
John C. Brown, City Manager

AUG 29 2011

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 8/29/11



August 23, 2011

City Council

Gina Belforte
Mayor

Jake Mackenzie
Vice Mayor

Amy O. Ahanotu
Joseph T. Callinan
Pam Stafford
Council Members

Gabriel A. Gonzalez
City Manager

Michelle Marchetta Kenyon
City Attorney

Alexandra M. Barnhill
Assistant City Attorney

Teri A. Griffin
City Clerk

Darrin W. Jenkins
Director of Development Services
/ City Engineer

Sandra M. Lipitz
Director of Administrative Services

Brian Masterson
Director of Public Safety

John McArthur
Director of Public Works and
Community Services

The Honorable Gary Nadler
Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administrative Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Chris Christensen, Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

FILED

AUG 29 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Re: Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report 2010-2011

Dear Judge Nadler and Foreperson Christensen:

The City of Rohnert Park has reviewed the Grand Jury Final Report for 2010-2011 and in accordance with Penal Code section 933 provides the following responses:

A. Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option

Finding F8

Certain elected bodies (city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a special district or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of, a school district) may request the County Committee on the School District Organization (CCSDO) to do a study on unification/consolidation (E.C. #35721 (c)).

Response to Finding F8

Education Code section 35721(c) provides that certain elected bodies, by resolution of a majority of the body, may request the Committee on School District Organization to hold a public hearing to consider unification or other reorganization.

Recommendation R2

Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.

Response to Recommendation R2

The Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District (District) is a unified school district serving approximately 5,900 students from Rohnert Park, Cotati, and neighboring areas of Sonoma County. The district serves K-12 students and is comprised of six elementary schools, one middle school, a community day school, one comprehensive high school, a technology high school, and an alternative education center housing two high schools. The Rohnert Park City Council has a two-member ad-hoc Education Committee, which meets regularly with two members of the Cotati City Council and two members of the District Board of Directors on matters of mutual interest.

B. The Need for a Whistleblower Program in Sonoma County

Recommendation R1

Every governmental unit: county, city, school board or special district should encourage employees and citizens alike to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse issues to a central county reporting location. This local whistleblower hotline should be administered by the Civil Grand Jury or the Auditor-Controller's office, to provide anonymity and assurance that investigations will be thorough and impartial for any government entity in Sonoma County. Why would the Grand Jury want the County of Sonoma to provide this service and include cities and other government entities? We suggest this for the greater good of the citizens!

Response to Recommendation R1

The City of Rohnert Park agrees that it should encourage its employees and citizens to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse. The City has adopted a number of policies and complaint procedures to address reports of suspected waste, fraud or abuse, including:

1. City of Rohnert Park Policy against Harassment and Establishing a Complaint Procedure (Resolution No. 2007-117);
2. City of Rohnert Park Fraud in the Workplace Policy (Resolution No. 2009-135); and
3. City of Rohnert Park Policy against Discrimination of Qualified Individuals with a Disability and Establishing a Complaint Procedure (Resolution No. 92-79).

Employees who report specific violations under the City's policies against harassment, fraud, and disability discrimination are protected by those policies from retaliation for engaging in these protected activities. All of these processes provide for the confidentiality of the reporting party, thorough and impartial investigation of the allegations, and corrective action if warranted. Therefore, the City believes that the established mechanisms for reporting such violations are sufficient and a central county reporting location or local hotline would be redundant and not the most cost-effective or efficient means to investigate and respond to such complaints.

In addition, all City workplaces contain a state notice about whistleblower protection which provides the toll-free 800 number for the State Attorney General's whistleblower hotline.

Recommendation R2

When a Sonoma County central whistleblower program and administrator is established, every governmental unit should provide clear, easily accessible information about the program and 24 hour hotline on their websites, in their employee training and as a notice on employee bulletin boards.

Response to Recommendation R2

The City provides clear and easily accessible information about its complaint policies and procedures and will continue to enhance electronic access through links on its Internet and Intranet websites. In addition, all City workplaces contain a state notice about whistleblower protection which provides the toll-free 800 number for the State Attorney General's whistleblower hotline.

Recommendation R3

The county budget for 2011/2012 and forward, include the cost of a commercial whistleblower hotline service (est. less than \$15,000/ yr) either as part of the operating budget of Civil Grand Jury or the office of the Auditor / Controller.

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Chris Christensen, Foreperson
August 23, 2011
Page 3

Response to Recommendation R3

As stated above, the City believes a central county reporting location or local hotline would be redundant and not the most cost-effective or efficient means to investigate and respond to such complaints. In addition, the City is not in a position to determine the operating budget of the Civil Grand Jury or the County Auditor-Controller's Office. While the estimated cost of less than \$15,000 per year would presumably cover the cost of a 24/7 commercial hotline service, it does not account for the additional cost of investigation and enforcement by the Grand Jury or the Auditor-Controller's Office.

Recommendation R4

The designated office for Sonoma County should provide an annual report to the public on the whistleblower program including such information as the total number of whistleblower complaints received, the number of complaints that were formally investigated, and the dollar value (if applicable) that was recovered.

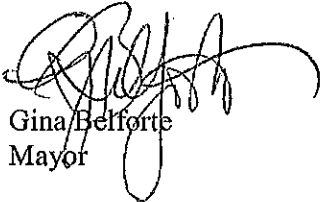
Response to Recommendation R4

As stated above, the City believes that central county reporting location or local hotline would be redundant and not the most cost-effective or efficient means to investigate and respond to such complaints.

Appendix 3 has been completed and is attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report 2010-2011. If you should have any questions regarding the above or require additional information, please contact Gabriel Gonzalez, City Manager, at (707) 588-2226.

Sincerely,



Gina Belforte
Mayor

cc: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Janice Atkinson, Sonoma County Clerk
Rohnert Park City Council
Gabriel Gonzalez, City Manager
Michelle Marchetta Kenyon, City Attorney
Terri Griffin, City Clerk

Sebastopol Union
Sonoma Valley Unified
Twin Hills Union
Two Rock Union
Waugh
West Side Union
West Sonoma County High
Wilmar Union
Windsor Unified
Wright

7611 Huntley, Sebastopol, CA 95472
17850 Railroad Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476
700 Watertrough Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472
5001 Spring Hill Road, Petaluma, CA 94952
1851 Hartman Lane, Petaluma, CA 94954
1201 Felta Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448
462 Johnson Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472
3775 Bodega Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952
9291 Old Redwood Hwy, Bldg 500, Windsor, CA 95492
4385 Price Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

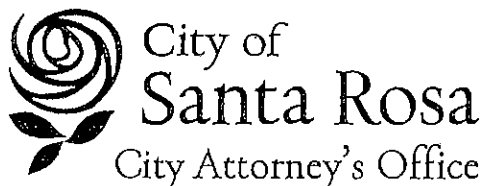
APPENDIX 3

Requested Whistleblower Response

1. Do you post copies of the state whistleblower statutes and hotline number in your employee breakroom? Yes No
2. How would an employee allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed within your organization?
It would depend on the nature of the complaint.
3. How would a citizen allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed within your organization?
It would depend on the nature of the complaint.
4. Do you believe that present laws and practices provide an adequate safeguard for your organization and for those individuals who may wish to report wrongdoing? If yes, please explain.
 Yes No See letter attached.
5. Do you believe that a local twenty-four hour hot line, additional assurance of confidentiality and summary annual reports to the citizens would be of substantial value when managing increasingly scarce governmental resources? Yes No
6. Given time and adequate description of a proposed structure and process, would you consider formally adopting a resolution to participate in a countywide whistleblower program administered by either the Grand Jury or the County Auditor-Controller office? Yes No
7. Comments:
See letter attached.

CAROLINE L. FOWLER
City Attorney

MATTHEW J. LaBLANC
SUZANNE C. RAWLINGS
MICHAEL J. CASEY
MOLLY L. DILLON
JOHN J. FRITSCH
ANGELA M. CASAGRANDA
Assistant City Attorneys



Approved:

[Signature]
Superior Court Judge

Date:

8/2/11

August 4, 2011

Chris Christensen
Foreperson
Sonoma County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Re: Grand Jury Final Report 2010-2011

Dear Mr. Christensen:

This letter is written on behalf of the City of Santa Rosa in response to the Grand Jury's Final Report of 2010-2011. First, the City would like to thank you and the committee members for their hard work on behalf of the citizens of Sonoma County. There were three items which requested responses from the City of Santa Rosa. The City's responses are set forth below:

A. The Need for A Whistleblower Program in Sonoma County

Recommendation R1

Every governmental unit: county, city, school board or special district should encourage employees and citizens alike to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse issues to a central county reporting location. This local whistleblower hotline should be administered by the Civil Grand Jury or the Auditor-Controller's office to provide anonymity and assurance that investigations will be thorough and impartial for any government entity in Sonoma County. Why would the Grand Jury want the County of Sonoma to provide this service and include cities and other government entities? We suggest this for the greater good of the citizens!

Response to Recommendation R1

While the City agrees that it should encourage its employees and citizens alike to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse issues, the City does not believe that a central county reporting location or a commercial hotline service is the best or most cost effective way to timely respond to or investigate such complaints. The City has a variety of specific complaint processes such as its Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy, ADA Complaint form and Police Complaint form which are available on its website. In addition, contact information is readily available for the City Council, the City Manager and the City Attorney to report such complaints or contact information to report directly to the involved departments. Citizens may also attend regularly noticed City Council Meetings and provide public comment to the City Council if they have a

FILED

AUG 12 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY CLERK

Chris Christensen
August 4, 2011
Page 2

complaint. A citizen currently has the right and ability to file a complaint with the Grand Jury if it does not believe a governmental agency has responded adequately to its complaint in addition to a variety of State or Federal Agencies.

Recommendation R2

When a Sonoma County central whistleblower program and administrator is established, every governmental unit should provide clear, easily accessible information about the program and 24-hour hotline on their websites, in their employee training and as a notice on employee bulletin boards.

Response to Recommendation 2

As stated in response to Recommendation 1, the City does not believe a central Whistleblower program is the most cost effective or timely way to respond to citizen or employee complaints. The City believes it currently provides clear and easily accessible information about its complaint processes but will continue to work to improve information available on its website.

Recommendation R3

The county budget for 2011/2012 and forward, include the cost of a commercial whistleblower hotline service (est. less than \$15,000/ yr), either as part of the operating budget of the Civil Grand Jury or the office of the Auditor / Controller.

Response to Recommendation R3

As stated above, the City does not believe a central county-wide or commercial whistleblower hotline service is the most cost effective or timely manner to respond to such complaints and does not believe it is appropriate for the City to comment on County's budget.

Recommendation R4

The designated office for Sonoma County should provide an annual report to the public on the whistleblower program including such information as the total number of whistleblower complaints received, the number of complaints that were formally investigated, and the dollar value (if applicable) that was recovered.

Response to Recommendation R4

As stated above, the City does not believe a central county wide or commercial whistleblower hotline service is the most cost effective or timely method to respond to such complaints.

Responses to Questions in Appendix 3 are attached as requested. While in response to Question 4, the City does believe there are adequate laws and practices to safeguard our City and individuals who wish to complain, the City is currently in the process of evaluating options to centralize and improve its complaint processes which would include complaints regarding the issues raised by the Committee. The City is also in the process of reviewing a number of City Council and Administrative policies and intends to adopt a local Whistleblower policy summarizing the protections for employees who report complaints of the nature identified by the committee in addition to the information already provided as required by state law.

B. Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option

Finding F8

Certain elected bodies (city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a Special District or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of, a school district) may request the County Committee on School District Organization to do a study on unification/consolidation (E.C. 35721(c))

Response to Finding F8

Education Code 35721(c) provides that certain elected bodies, by resolution of a majority of the body, may request the Committee on School District Organization to hold a public hearing to consider unification or other reorganization

Recommendation R2

Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.

Response to Recommendation R2:

The City Council has recently started to hold joint meetings on a quarterly basis with the Santa Rosa School Board to review issues of joint concern and will place this item for discussion on a future agenda so that it can be fully considered and reviewed.

C. An Incident in Santa Rosa:

Recommendation R1

All future SRPD Incident/Investigation Reports shall include the results of any required medical (SART) examination.

Chris Christensen
August 4, 2011
Page 4

Response to Recommendation R1:

It is the practice of the Santa Rosa Police Department to include the results of any required medical examination. In this specific case, the SART examination report is included as an attachment to the investigative report generated by the Santa Rosa Police Department.

Recommendation R2.

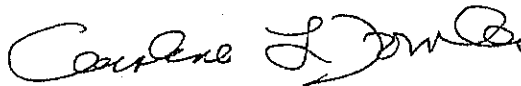
All future SRPD Incident/Investigation Reports of sexual assault/abuse shall state whether or not the interview with the suspect was recorded. If not, that information should be included, together with the reason.

Response to Recommendation R2

It is standard practice for all Santa Rosa Police Department detectives to digitally record all critical interviews during the course of criminal investigations. This practice typically includes all victim and suspect interviews, as well as most witness interviews. The most common exception to this practice is the rare circumstance of malfunctioning recording equipment. It is also standard practice to document whether or not an interview was recorded in the written police report. With reference to the particular investigation concerning the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury the recording equipment malfunctioned. The fact that this information did not appear in the written police report was an error and did not conform to our current policy which requires recorded interviews.

If you should have any questions regarding the above or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Caroline L. Fowler
City Attorney

CLF:kv
Enclosure

cc: Hon. Gary Nadler ✓
Kathy Millison, City Manager
Santa Rosa City Council

Roseland	1934 Biwana Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Santa Rosa City Elementary	211 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Santa Rosa City High	211 Ridgway Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401
Sebastopol Union	7611 Huntley, Sebastopol, CA 95472
Sonoma Valley Unified	17850 Railroad Avenue, Sonoma, CA 95476
Twin-Hills-Union	700-Watertrough-Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472
Two Rock Union	5001 Spring Hill Road, Petaluma, CA 94952
Waugh	1851 Hartman Lane, Petaluma, CA 94954
West Side Union	1201 Felta Road, Healdsburg, CA 95448
West Sonoma County High	462 Johnson Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472
Wilmar Union	3775 Bodega Avenue, Petaluma, CA 94952
Windsor Unified	9291 Old Redwood Hwy, Bldg 500, Windsor, CA 95492
Wright	4385 Price Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95407

APPENDIX 3

Requested Whistleblower Response

1. Do you post copies of the state whistleblower statutes and hotline number in your employee breakroom?
 Yes No
2. How would an employee allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed within your organization?
Would depend on nature of complaint
3. How would a citizen allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed within your organization?
Would depend on nature of complaint
4. Do you believe that present laws and practices provide an adequate safeguard for your organization and for those individuals who may wish to report wrongdoing? If yes, please explain.
 Yes No
5. Do you believe that a local twenty-four hour hot line, additional assurance of confidentiality and summary annual reports to the citizens would be of substantial value when managing increasingly scarce governmental resources? Yes No
6. Given time and adequate description of a proposed structure and process, would you consider formally adopting a resolution to participate in a countywide whistleblower program administered by either the Grand Jury or the County Auditor-Controller office? Yes No
7. Comments: See letter attached

By Caroline L. Fowler
City Attorney

For City of Santa Rosa

Sonoma County Schools Response

City of Sebastopol Response

- R2. Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a County Commission or School District Organization (CCSDO) study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.

The City appreciates the Grand Jury's recommendation and will pay close attention to the actions of the Sebastopol Union and West Sonoma County School Districts as they review and respond to the Grand Jury's recommendations on this item. We note that the Grand Jury recommended that every school district in the county undertake a CCSDO study. We'll await our two school districts' review of that recommendation and their intended course of action.

- F8. F8: Certain elected bodies (city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a special district or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all , or a portion of, a school district) may request the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) to do a study on unification/consolidation (E.C. #35721 (c)).

Our response to this finding is consistent with our response to Recommendation 2.

No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma, California 95476-6618
Phone (707) 938-3681 Fax (707) 938-8775
E-Mail: cityhall@sonomacity.org



Aswan, Arab Republic of Egypt
Chambolle-Musigny, France
Greve in Chianti, Italy
Kaniv, Ukraine
Patzcuaro, Mexico

September 20, 2011

Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Re: Response to "Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer An Option: The Journey Begins With One Step" Grand Jury report

Dear Judge Nadler and Foreperson:

The City Council of the City of Sonoma reviewed the Grand Jury report titled "*Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer An Option: The Journey Begins With One Step*" in open session on September 19, 2011, and approved the response attached to this correspondence. This shall serve as their response as required by California Penal Code section 933. Responses are detailed on Attachment 1 to this letter.

Sincerely,

Carol E. Giovanatto
Assistant City Manager

Enclosures:

Attachment 1: Responses to Findings and Recommendations

Attachment 1 –

Responses to Findings F8 and Recommendation R2

F8. *Certain elected bodies [city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a special district or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of, a school district] may request the County Committee on School District Organization [CCSDO] to do a study on unification/consolidation. (E.C. #35721(c))*

City Response: Agree that Education Code section 35721(c) states that a majority of a governing body (i.e., a city council) may adopt a resolution which requires a county committee to hold a public hearing for consideration of unification/consolidation. City cannot express an opinion as to any other portion of this finding because City has not conducted any independent research that could confirm or deny any portion of this finding with the exception of that which is explicitly stated by the Education Code section cited by this finding. City acknowledges, however, that it agrees with the recommendation of the Grand Jury as provided below and would be supportive of this approach.

R2. *Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.*

City Response: City agrees with this recommendation. Unification and consolidation is the method by which economies of scales will be gained and savings recognized. However, there is only one school district which currently covers the entirety of the City of Sonoma's corporate boundaries, the Sonoma Valley Unified School District. Therefore, the City cannot implement this recommendation as to any school district that is within any portion of its jurisdictional territory, since there is only one such school district, namely Sonoma Valley Unified School District. *Each case depends upon the facts and the City is willing to consider such efforts as they may arise, but are not initiating any such efforts at this time due to having only one school district serve the entire City, which district does not appear to be geographically situated to raise concerns about overlapping or cumulative efforts by multiple school districts.*

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/27/11

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

SEP 23 2011
FILED
SEP 27 2011
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SIMONA
BY: [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Report Title: DOING NOTHING ABOUT EDUCATION
Report Date: JUNE 24, 2011
Response by: CARDI GIOVANNATTO Title: ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered R2 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 9-20-2011 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached 2



Town of Windsor
9291 Old Redwood Highway
P.O. Box 100
Windsor, CA 95492-0100
Phone: (707) 838-1000
Fax: (707) 838-7349

www.townofwindsor.com

Mayor
Steve Allen

Vice Mayor
Debora Fudge

Councilmembers
Robin Goble
Sam Salmon
Cheryl Scholar

Town Manager
J. Matthew Mullan

August 24, 2011

Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administrative Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Grand Jury Final Report 2010-2011

Dear Judge Nadler:

This letter is written on behalf of the Town of Windsor in response to the Grand Jury's Final Report of 2010-2011. There were three (3) items which requested responses from the Windsor Town Council of Windsor. The responses by the Windsor Town Council are set forth below:

A. The Need for a Whistleblower Program in Sonoma County

Recommendation R1

Every governmental unit: county, city, school board or special district should encourage employees and citizens alike to report suspected waste, fraud or abuse issues to a central county reporting location. This local whistleblower hotline should be administered by the Civil Grand Jury or the Auditor-Controller's office to provide anonymity and assurance that investigations will be thorough and impartial for any government entity in Sonoma County. Why would the Grand Jury want the County of Sonoma to provide this service and include cities and other government entities? We suggest this for the greater good of the citizens!

Recommendation R2

When a Sonoma County central whistleblower program and administrator is established, every governmental unit should provide clear, easily accessible information about the program and 24-hour hotline on their websites, in their employee training and as a notice on employee bulletin boards.

Recommendation R3

The county budget for 2011/12 and forward, include the cost of a commercial whistleblower hotline service (est. less than \$15,000/yr), either as part of the operating budget of the Civil Grand Jury or the office of the Auditor/Controller.

Recommendation R4

The designated office for Sonoma County should provide an annual report to the public on the whistleblower program including such information as the total number of

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge
Date: 8/29/11

FILED
AUG 29 2011
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

whistleblower complaints received, the number of complaints that were formally investigated, and the dollar value (if applicable) that was recovered.

Response to Recommendations R1, R2, R3 and R4

Recommendations numbered R1, R2, R3 and R4 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or reasonable, because the Town of Windsor has a process in place for the investigation of complaints pertaining to fraud, abuse and unsafe practices. This process provides for the confidentiality of the reporting party, thorough investigation into the allegations and proposed corrective action as warranted.

The Grand Jury report estimates a cost of less than \$15,000 per year for a commercial whistleblower hotline service, but the report provides no information on the cost of follow up, investigation, and/or enforcement activities. The Town of Windsor is not in a position to determine the ability of the Grand Jury or Sonoma County Auditor-Controller's office, or any other County agency to support or implement a county-wide whistleblower program, either financially or administratively.

Appendix 3 is attached.

B. Doing Nothing About Education is No Longer an Option

Finding F8

Certain elected bodies (city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a Special District or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of, a school district) may request the County Committee on School District Organization to do a study on unification/consolidation (E.C. 35721 (c))

Response to F8

Education Code 35721 (c) more accurately provides that certain elected bodies, by resolution of a majority of the body, may request the Committee on School District Organization to hold a public hearing to consider unification or other reorganization. The Town Council has no plans to do so at this time.

Recommendation R2

Every city or town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.

Response to R2

We believe this recommendation is unwarranted for the following reasons: The Windsor Unified School District serves almost the entire geographical area of the Town of Windsor. The remaining small fraction of Windsor is served by the Mark West School District. The Town of Windsor appreciates the work of the Grand Jury on this issue and is very interested in supporting initiatives that will assist the public education system in Sonoma County. However, the Town Council is focused on its core mission, which is to provide municipal services to its citizens and maintains a high degree of confidence in each of the school districts that serve the residents of the Town of Windsor.

C. Improvements Needed in the Town of Windsor

Recommendation R1

The Public Works Director should ensure that guidelines clarify the chain of command with respect to the handling of non-permitted discharges. These should become part of each written description for job classes involved in reporting discharges.

Response to R1

Recommendation numbered R1 has not been implemented as requested because it is our understanding that it is not warranted to list procedures for the handling of non-permitted discharges in a job classification. With respect to Recommendation #1, clear guidelines currently exist in the Town's Standard Operating Procedures. The Town Council has instructed the Town Manager and Public Works Director to provide a copy of the Standard Operating Procedure in their response.

Recommendation R2

Each job description should be reviewed to ensure that it includes a clear, specific definition of reporting responsibilities of all supervisory and management staff in order to clarify the chain of command.

Response to R2

Recommendation numbered R2 has been implemented; revised job classifications were made available as of July 1, 2011. Job classifications include clear reporting responsibilities and chain of command. Also available is a Town of Windsor organization chart which clearly shows the chain of command in each department and division within the Town. The Town's job classifications and organization chart are available on the Town website.

Recommendation R3

The Town Manager should address the issue of employees who are currently engaged in the continuation of longstanding interpersonal conflicts, which have created a stressful and possibly inefficient work environment.

Response to R3

Recommendation numbered R3 has been implemented. With respect to Recommendation #3, this recommendation deals with personnel issues (i.e., supposed interpersonal conflicts) and to the extent that any such issues may exist, they are, and will continue to be, properly addressed through the Town's regular personnel policies and procedures.

Recommendation R4

The Town Manager should confirm the right of any employee to provide sworn, secret testimony to any legal body without fear of exposure or retaliation.

Response to R4

Recommendation numbered R4 has been implemented. With respect to Recommendation #4, this recommendation is implemented through a combination of state laws and the Town's personnel rules that are applicable to, and observed by, the Town and all of its officials and Town employees, including management employees.

If you should have any questions regarding the above or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Town Manager Matt Mullan or me at (707) 838-5315.

Sincerely,



Steven Allen
Mayor

cc: Chris Christensen, Foreperson 2010-2011 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
Windsor Town Council
Town Manager

Enclosure: Appendix 3

APPENDIX 3

Requested Whistleblower Response

1. Do you post copies of the state whistleblower statutes and hotline number in your employee breakroom?

Yes, they are posted at all work locations in the breakroom.

2. How would an employee allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed within your organization?

It would depend on the nature of the complaint.

3. How would a citizen allegation of significant wrongdoing be directed in your organization?

It would depend on the nature of the complaint.

4. Do you believe that present laws and practices provide adequate safeguard for your organization and for those individuals who may wish to report wrongdoing?

Yes

5. Do you believe that a local twenty-four hour hotline, additional assurance of confidentiality and summary annual reports to the citizens would be of substantial value when managing increasingly scarce governmental resources?

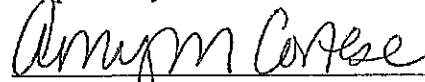
No

6. Given time and adequate description of a proposed structure and process, would you consider formally adopting a resolution to participate in a countywide whistleblower program administered by either the Grand Jury or the County Auditor-Controller office?

No

7. Comments? See letter attached.

Prepared by:



Amy Cortese, Human Resources Manager
Town of Windsor

Approved: _____

Superior Court Judge

Date: _____

7/28/11

JUL 27 2011



5340 Skylane Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8246
(707) 524-2600 ■ www.scoe.org

July 22, 2011

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive, Room 106J
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FILED

JUL 27 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY _____ DEPUTY CLERK

Re: Response to 2011 Civil Grand Jury Report
Doing Nothing About Education Is No Longer an Option
The Journey Begins With One Step

Honorable Judge Nadler:

Pursuant to direction from the 2011 Civil Grand Jury, I submit the following response to the specified findings and recommendations:

Finding 1 – There are 40 school districts in Sonoma County, one of the highest numbers of districts in any California county.

Answer: I agree, but note that this does not include the number of charter schools that are independent and are a separate public school entity within Sonoma County.

Finding 2 – With over 70,000 students in 40 school districts, Sonoma County has more school districts per pupil than any other similar county.

Answer: I disagree with this determination based on a lack of clarity about the finding. There are various ways to compare counties throughout the state, of which there are 58. Comparisons or a determination about “similarity” can be made based on population size, rural compared to urban or suburban nature of county, and general location. In addition, the state has a different way to compartmentalize counties based on ranges of student population. In terms of comparison, Marin County has approximately 13,000 students and 13 districts and thus has fewer students per district on average than Sonoma County. Tulare County, which is a Class 3 county as is Sonoma County, has approximately 90,000 students and 46 districts and has a slightly higher average number of students per district than Sonoma County.

Finding 3 – School districts are closing schools. Student population and budgets/revenues have been declining, and are expected to continue to decline in Sonoma County.

Answer: I agree that within the last five years some of the school districts within Sonoma County have closed schools, that county-wide student population has declined and that school districts are receiving less revenue from the state. The expectation, as demonstrated in the recently adopted state budget, is that revenues are expected to stabilize and increase. We are also seeing a trend nation-wide towards an increase in enrollment.

Steven D. Herrington, Ph.D. ■ Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education ■ Alex Bantis, Karen Bosworth, Pat Hummel, Jill Kaufman, Helga Lemke, Ray Peterson, Kathleen Willbanks

The Honorable Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Sonoma County
July 22, 2011
Page 2 of 4

Finding 4 – Charter Schools are increasing in number and student enrollment in Sonoma County.

Answer: I agree that there has been an increase in the number of dependent, as well as independent, charter schools in Sonoma County over the last five years. This has not increased the actual enrollment in Sonoma County, except that, in some cases, charter schools that operate independent-study type programs are able to enroll students from outside of the county.

Finding 5 – State funding has decreased in California.

Answer: Agree.

Finding 6 – The graduation rate is in decline, and the dropout rate has increased in Sonoma County High Schools.

Answer: I disagree in part. The graduation rate has fluctuated over the last five years as has the drop-out rate. While the Sonoma County graduation rate has been higher than the statewide average, there is room for improvement.

Finding 7 – Parents are able to take over failing schools (Charter Schools) and/or move their children out of failing schools (Open Enrollment Act, E.C. 48350).

Answer: I disagree in part in that parents are not able to “take over” a school that has less than required growth in student achievement. Parents, however, can move their children out of such schools and into alternative programs that are doing better. Districts, themselves, have obligations about revising and “reinventing” a school that is not meeting achievement goals.

Finding 9 – The County Superintendent of Schools does not have the authority to initiate a study on consolidation/unification even if a school district is, or is in danger, of economically failing.

Answer: I agree that a county superintendent does not have unilateral authority to initiate a study on consolidation/unification in such circumstances. County superintendents do have other avenues of action to assist, monitor and provide structure for a school district that has economic challenges.

Finding 11 – Articulated curriculum supports consistency in learning experiences from feeder schools to high schools.

Answer: Agree.

Finding 12 – School Boards of districts in receivership lose financial control (assumed by a trustee appointed by the state) but continue to control those academic decisions that have no financial implications and remain in an advisory capacity.

Answer: Agree.

Finding 17 – Parents can get statistical data for a teacher’s grade level performance from SCOE; however, districts do not disseminate this information routinely.

Answer: I disagree in part. The County Office does not provide teacher grade level performance information. School districts do have various requirements regarding dissemination of information regarding performance in their district.

Finding 19 – Some Sonoma County school districts are failing financially (Schedule of 2010-2011 Financial Reporting in the attached Appendix).

Answer: I disagree in part. The Grand Jury’s context of financially failing districts is unclear. There is no doubt that there are some school districts in Sonoma County that are struggling financially and are experiencing significant financial distress, but they are not bankrupt. Most of the financial issues for our schools are in terms of cash flow and meeting obligations over multi-year time periods, not in the current year. This is significantly due to the fact that state funding has declined so dramatically over the last few years, and because the state has deferred payment of the money owed to school districts into subsequent school years such that school districts do not have access to their money at traditional time frames.

Recommendations:

Recommendation 4 – The Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools should sponsor twice-annual regional meetings of all school district superintendents to:

- (a) Discuss and implement “best practices”;

Answer: This is already an ongoing and regular practice of the Sonoma County Office of Education and Superintendent of Schools. The County Office sponsors many meetings throughout each school year that discuss and recommend implementation of “best practices” in many areas of operation, such as curriculum, instructional strategies, financial practices and legal issues.

- (b) Explore and implement school district cost-sharing programs that would reduce school district duplication;

Answer: This recommendation has already been implemented and is a long standing practice of the Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools.

- (c) Initiate horizontal and vertical articulation of classroom curriculum, in order to meet educational needs, which benefit the students going forward feeding into the high school district;

Answer: This recommendation will not be implemented in that it is not within the jurisdiction of the Sonoma County Superintendent to implement or initiate curriculum in the school districts of this county. That is a local decision. The County Office does provide in-service programs for all districts regarding curriculum issues and curriculum

practices, and it is up to the school district, individually, to determine what is best for their students.

- (d) Provide for prompt transfer of pupil records among all schools that any student may choose to attend in Sonoma County, especially those students who are entering a secondary school district.

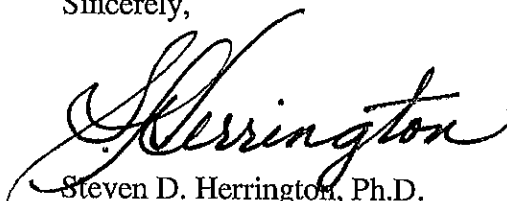
Answer: This recommendation is already in place. School districts have worked together to develop systems for transferring records. In addition, most student records are now electronically retained and are transferred via various electronic systems that retain student information.

Recommendation 7 – The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools should support and work with state legislators to establish a provision in the educational code that would empower the County Superintendent to make his/her own request for district consolidation or unification studies if a school district has filed qualified or negative financial certification for two years or more.

Answer: This recommendation will be subject to further review, although, certain aspects of it are not likely to be implemented. The topic of this recommendation is beyond the jurisdiction of the County Board. With regard to the jurisdiction of the County Superintendent, there are alternative measures that are within the purview of the County Superintendent to work with the districts that have negative financial certification for an ongoing period of time. Typically, districts in this situation work closely with the County Office of Education and are receptive to various recommendations that might assist them. Reorganization/consolidation should not always be driven by economic issues. There are significant issues such as curriculum and student access that play an important role in whether such studies regarding consolidation or unification should be undertaken.

In closing, I want to thank the Grand Jury for an opportunity to provide information during the course of their study and for an opportunity to respond. Reorganization/consolidation of school districts is an important issue, but it is not uniquely driven by monetary concerns. To be successful, in my opinion, reorganization/consolidation needs significant support from the communities. Residents also need to believe that it will enhance the educational program. Lastly, there does need to be economic stability for districts that reorganize, not a penalty, associated with reorganization. With all those factors in place, the concept of reorganization will be more likely to be embraced and promoted by our local communities in which school districts play such a huge and vital role.

Sincerely,



Steven D. Herrington, Ph.D.

Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools

Approved: MM
Superior Court Judge

Date: 7/26/11



5340 Skylane Boulevard
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(707) 524-2600 ■ www.scoe.org

July 21, 2011

Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administrative Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Dear Judge Nadler:

I am responding to recommendation R8 contained in the Final Report of the Sonoma County Grand Jury, 2010-11.

R8. The Sonoma County Board of Education should conduct a study of SCOE to determine the possible costs and savings of fewer school districts to manage Sonoma County Schools, and where those costs/savings, if any, could be applied to better the education of students.

Response: Disagree. This recommendation should not be implemented because this recommendation does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Sonoma County Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Denise Calvert


Denise Calvert
Deputy Superintendent

FILED

JUL 22 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA

BY: JRW DEPUTY CLERK

Approved: 
Superior Court Judge
Date: 9/14/11



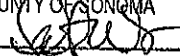
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September 2, 2011

Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
Superior Court State of California
County of Sonoma Hall of Justice
600 Administrative Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

SEP 14 2011
FILED

SEP 14 2011
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY:  DEPUTY CLERK

Dear Judge Nadler:

We are responding to findings (F14,F15) and the recommendations (R4, R6, R7, R8) contained in the Final Report of the Sonoma County Grand Jury, 2010-11.

F14 The County Board of Education is an elected body of seven trustees at present. The CCSDO has the authority to reduce membership to five trustees to realize a cost savings to the citizens of Sonoma County.

Response: Agree. The CCSDO does have the authority to reduce the number of county board of education trustees to five. While such action may result in cost savings, other issues need to be considered.

F15 There has been only one contested election for the County Board of Education in the last 10 years.

Response: Disagree. There have been two contested elections.

R4 The Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools should sponsor twice-annual regional meetings of all school district superintendents.

Response: Disagree. The County Superintendent of Schools is an elected official and is not directed by the County Board of Education

R6 The CCSDO, in an effort to better manage costs, should study the potential savings available by reconfiguring the CBOE trusteeships (currently 7 members) to align with the County Board of Supervisors (currently 5). A new, smaller CBOE would then also reflect current census distribution within the county.

Response: Disagree. The CCSDO operates independently from the County Board of Education. Any study should consider operational and representational issues in addition to costs. The CCSDO has the authority to change boundaries regardless of the number of trustees.

R7 The County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools should support and work with state legislators to establish a provision in the educational code that would empower the County Superintendent to make his/her own request for district consolidation or unification studies if a school district has filed qualified or negative financial certification for two or more years.

Response: Disagree. This recommendation requires further analysis.

R8. The Sonoma County Board of Education should conduct a study of SCOE to determine the possible costs and savings of fewer school districts to manage Sonoma County Schools, and where those costs/savings, if any, could be applied to better the education of students.

Response: Disagree. This recommendation does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Sonoma County Board of Education.

This response was reviewed by the County Board of Education at their regular meeting on August 4, 2011.

On behalf of the County Board of Education, I want to thank the Grand Jury for their hard work and commitment to the community. We appreciate the efforts of the Grand Jury on this complex and important topic and regret that there was not an opportunity for a member of this Board to provide information and input during the course of their study.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Willbanks
Board President

AUG 23 2011

Approved: [Signature]
Superior Court Judge



Date: 8/24/11

August 10, 2011

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Gary Nadler, Presiding Judge
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Foreperson
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Santa Rosa, CA 95402

FILED

AUG 24 2011

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SONOMA
BY [Signature] DEPUTY CLERK

Dear Judge Nadler:

We are responding to findings (F8, F10, F13) and the recommendations (R1, R2, R3, R5, R6) contained in the Final Report of the Sonoma County Grand Jury, 2010-11.

F8 Certain Elected bodies (city and town councils, County Board of Supervisors, governing body of a special district or local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over all, or a portion of , a school district) may request the County Committee on School District Organization (CCSDO) to do a study on consolidation/unification (E.C. #35721 ©).

Response: Agree.

F10 The last study of school district consolidation/unification was initiated in 2004.

Response: Disagree. The last study of school district consolidation was initiated in 2007.

F13 As Noted in F8 above, CCSDO oversees and approves school district requests for territorial transfer, school board issues and studies for consolidation. They approve all school district consolidations before sending them to the state for approval prior to final public approval by election.

Response: Agree.

R1 Every school district in Sonoma County that is not currently a K-12 or basic aid district should request a CCSDO study to determine if educational and/or financial benefits could be achieved through either consolidation or unification.

Response: Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. This is a local school district decision and each district needs to make decisions based on local needs and interests.

R2 Every city of town council in Sonoma County should exercise their prerogative per the E.C. 35720-35724 to initiate a CCSDO study of educational and financial benefits that might be achieved for their citizens through consolidation or unification of school districts within their city boundaries.

Response: Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. This is a local jurisdiction issue and each jurisdiction needs to consider their local needs and interests.

R3 As per the E.C. 35720-35724, The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors should request that the CCSDO initiate a fact finding study for the purpose of determining the educational and financial benefits, if any, of reconfiguring or consolidating school districts within their overlapping jurisdictions within Sonoma County in to K12 or other configurations of unified school districts, that would benefit all stakeholders.

Response: Disagree. This recommendation will not be implemented. This is a decision for the County Board of Supervisors and they need to consider their priorities and interests.

R5. All CCSDO studies should include the statutory elements required by the state educational code and:

- a. an evaluation of an articulated K-12 curriculum, and**
- b. the economic benefits of Special Education, transportation , administrative services,**
- c. board members' health and welfare benefits, and**
- d. stipend savings through elimination of duplicate services**

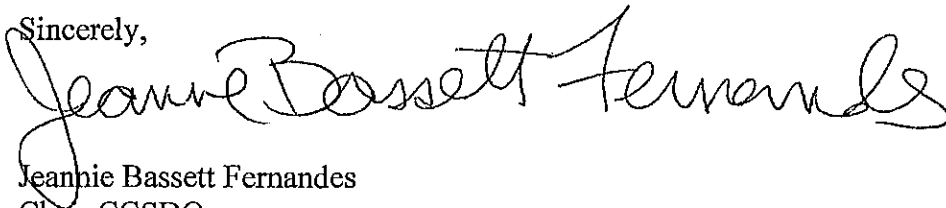
Response: Agree. Every study that is completed will contain the statutory elements required by state education code. The additional recommended items will be considered based on the individual needs of districts in the study.

R6 The CCSDO, in an effort to better manage costs, should study the potential savings available by reconfiguring the CBOE trusteeships (currently 7 members) to align with the County Board of Supervisors (currently 5). A new, smaller CBOE would then also reflect current census distribution within the county.

Response: Agree. The CCSDO will undertake a review of the possible reconfiguration of the trustee areas based on all issues including cost savings. The boundaries will be considered due to the recent census regardless of the number of trustees.

This report was reviewed and approved by the committee on August 8, 2011

Sincerely,



Jeannie Bassett Fernandes
Chair CCSDO

C: Committee Members, Steve Herrington, Denise Calvert