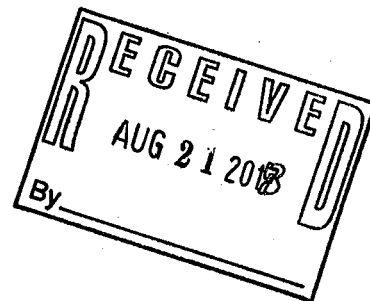


Grand Jury Report

REQUIRED RESPONSE FORM



Grand Jury Report Title: Mendocino County School Nutrition Programs

Report Dated: May 29, 2018

Response Form Submitted By:

Mendocino County Board of Education
2240 Old River Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than: August 27, 2018

We have reviewed the report and submit our responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:

I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:

F1, F2, F3, F4, F5, F6, F7, F9, F10, F13, F14 and F15

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have *attached* a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.

F8, F11, and F12

I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:

The following Recommendation(s) have been implemented and ***attached, as required***, is a summary describing the implemented actions:

The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future; ***attached, as required***, is a time frame for implementation:

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- The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and **attached, as required**, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)
-

- The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable; **attached, as required**, is an explanation therefore:

R-1 through R-6

I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:

Number of Pages attached: 1

I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/grand-jury. The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.

I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:

First Step: E-mail in pdf file format to:

- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: grandjury@mendocinocounty.org
- The Presiding Judge: grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov

Second Step: Mail all originals to:

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 939
Ukiah, CA 95482

Printed Name: Donald Crusen

Title: Board President

Signed: Donald Crusen

Date: 14 Aug 2018

Response to Grand Jury

The Mendocino County Board of Education would like to thank the Grand Jury for conducting this investigation and making reasonable recommendations. It is of great value to bring these problems to the attention of the general-public including the following points:

1. School food service programs are severely under-funded. This is the primary factor inhibiting the improvement of student meals.
2. In many districts in the county, 60% of students come from a family with a low enough income to qualify them for a free lunch.
3. In order to provide children with an adequate diet, many school districts are offering three meals a day and meals during the summer.

Our statement specifying any portion of the FINDINGS that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore:

F8 *This is not true for all districts. (Certainly not in Fort Bragg.)*

F11 *Not true for all districts and easily corrected at the school level.*

F12 *An issue for union representation.*

Our responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:

R1 *The Board of Education agrees that a full time Nutrition Services Director would be a valuable asset for school districts in the county. However, since the county Superintendent is the employer and the Board of Education is not, there is no authority to impose staffing requirements on MCOE or the district offices. The issue of funding is a primary consideration and would involve the local districts. At a time when employee health benefits are projected to go up 17%, pension payments are increasing, and all other expenses are increasing beyond the COLA, it is questionable whether funding the Director position is possible. Short term contracting with a dietician might be a more affordable option.*

R2 & R3 *The Board of Education sees the possibility of MCOE working with districts in review of these recommendations to determine ways in which this might occur.*

R4 *The Board of Education and superintendent have previously discussed working with district superintendents to assist the food service directors to meet and exchange information. The Board of Education would like to see site visitations.*

R5 & R6 *These recommendations are the sole responsibility of the local districts.*