

# ANDERSON VALLEY MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

June 2, 2014

## SUMMARY

As part of routine investigations of the educational system, the 2013-2014 Grand Jury visited the Anderson Valley Middle and High School. The Anderson Valley Unified School District has hired a new principal for the Anderson Valley Middle and High School to lead its dedicated and involved staff, all of whom are responsible for the education of the Anderson Valley Middle and High School's 267 students.

The Anderson Valley Middle and High School facilities are more than 50 years old and in need of extensive repair. The Anderson Valley community is very supportive of the Anderson Valley Middle and High School. Two years ago the citizens approved a \$24 million bond measure for modernization, renovation, and maintenance of both campuses, to be used in three phases.

Phase One provided \$8 million dollars, which is being used for upgrades and repairs to be completed this year. One of the accomplishments has been the installation of solar panels to save money for the district. The efficiency of the solar energy system has reduced electricity cost to nine dollars per month. Further renovations will begin after the bonds for Phase Two are sold in 2015.

The Grand Jury found the Anderson Valley Middle and High School is well run and student oriented. The Grand Jury was invited to have lunch in the school cafeteria where the well-behaved student population was observed. Indeed, it is clear that all students are valued and respected at the Anderson Valley Middle and High School.

## GLOSSARY

Provision 2 of the National School Lunch Act Schools with high percentages of low-income students, 75% or more in some cases, are able to serve both breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge to the students.

Physical Education Program Grant The Carol M. White Physical Education Program provides grants to initiate, expand, or enhance physical education programs, including after-school programs, for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

## BACKGROUND

The Grand Jury selected Anderson Valley Middle and High School (the School) as part of its routine rotating schedule of school investigation.

## APPROACH

This investigation was conducted by visiting the School facility. The Grand Jury interviewed the site Administrator and School Counselor, and reviewed documents. The Anderson Valley Unified School District (AVUSD) Superintendent was interviewed at a later date.

## FACTS

AVUSD consists of five schools: Anderson Valley Elementary School, Anderson Valley Middle and High School, Rancheria Continuation School, Anderson Valley Adult School, and Peachland Pre-School, which are divided between two campuses. AVUSD has a five-member school board and a half-time superintendent who has held various positions within the district since 1985.

The School staff consists of one administrator, 17 teachers (six who speak Spanish fluently), one counselor, and two full time custodians with one maintenance person who covers the two campuses in this district.

The School is more than 50 years old and is in a state of disrepair. Water damage on ceilings and walls was evident in many classrooms and other areas of the School. The new public address system now reaches all parts of the campus.

There were no visible signs directing visitors to the main office or other locations around the campus. There are no signs instructing visitors to sign in at the office.

The School has an average monthly electric bill of only nine dollars. Nearly 100% of their electricity is generated by their solar energy system.

The School has a student body of 267 students: 75-80% Hispanic; 20-25% Caucasian. One severely handicapped student is enrolled. The School is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The School is a Provision 2 School which enables them to serve free meals to all students. The culinary arts class provides daily lunches for students at no cost; staff members may purchase lunches. Meals meet the dietary needs of students.

The Physical Education Program Grant is providing the School with additional funds to enhance the Physical Education classes for middle school students.

There is strong community support for the School. The Anderson Valley Education Foundation has funded summer internships, grants for field trips, and equipment purchases. Through the help and donations from the community, the School's tennis courts were refurbished.

The School safety committee meets quarterly.

The following sports are offered for students: football, soccer, tennis, basketball, softball, baseball, and volleyball. Track and field is not offered. The superintendent coaches Junior Varsity Girls Basketball.

The administration and students are developing a school-based health clinic for teens which will be held on Tuesday evenings.

A bond measure for \$24 million was passed two years ago. The bonds will be sold and used in three phases. Bonds sold during the first phase provided \$8 million to upgrade and make repairs at both school campuses with a focus on the elementary school campus as follows:

- Solar energy for both sites
- Repairing roofs
- Remodeling locker rooms, bathrooms and installing individual shower stalls at the middle/high school

- Remodeling the computer room at the elementary school
- Remodeling classrooms at the elementary school
- Installing new drapes in all classrooms to provide for intruder protection

In 2015, the next series of bonds will be sold. The renovations and further repairs will focus on the School.

## **FINDINGS**

- F1. The School facility urgently needs maintenance.
- F2. The School buildings are in need of major repair.
- F3. The School is unable to participate in league track and field events due to the disrepair of the track and the absence of field event stations.
- F4. At the time of the visit, the public address system did not reach all areas of the School.
- F5. The lack of signs at the School, directing all visitors to the main office to sign in, is a security concern.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Grand Jury Recommends that:

- R1. As remodeling and maintenance projects are completed, regular scheduling of maintenance and upkeep of the School be made a high priority. (F1, F2)
- R2. A plan be developed for repairing and upgrading the track and installing field event stations. (F3)
- R3. Campus security and safety be reviewed. (F5)
- R4. Adequate campus signage be installed. (F5)

## **RESPONSES**

Pursuant to Penal Code §933.05, responses are required from the following individuals:

- Superintendent, Anderson Valley Unified School District (All findings and All recommendations)
- Principal, Anderson Valley Middle and High School (All findings and All recommendations)

Reports issued by the Civil Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code §929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Civil Grand Jury.