



MENDOCINO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

PAUL A. TICHININ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

2240 Old River Road • Ukiah, CA 95482-6156 • 707 467-5000 • Fax 707 462-0379

July 19, 2010

Mendocino Grand Jury
Carol Rosenberg, Foreperson Pro Tem
P.O. Box 939
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Ms. Rosenberg,

In response to the Grand Jury Report entitled “**Respect Needed, A Report on Orr Creek School Special Education**” dated May 12, 2010, my responses are as follows:

Findings

I agree with the findings numbered: 2, 3, 4, first part of 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35

I disagree either wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, 23, 25, 30

1. I am not aware of the complaint or multiple incidents occurring at Orr Creek School as mentioned in the report. All health and safety issues brought to my attention have been addressed immediately to the satisfaction of both staff and administration.
9. I meet with staff on a weekly basis and as requested. I have repeatedly told staff that I have an open door policy and am always available by phone or in-person if they need my assistance. Staff are always given program and budget information in a timely manner.
10. Layoff notices are issued with care, concern and respectful communication between myself and the affected employees.
11. This statement is untrue, as I have met with staff on multiple occasions to review budgetary concerns, recommendations and consequently implemented staff recommendations.
12. I am unaware of any staff being told not to use the grievance process, nor of anyone being singled out for speaking their mind.
23. This is a very subjective statement and there are a variety of variables that determine public participation in board meetings.

25. Every student shall receive a free and appropriate education and each school district is responsible for determining what services are needed by students residing within their boundaries.
30. The SELPA through the Superintendent's Policy Council allocates funds to school districts and then the school district determines their own budget for special education services.

Recommendations

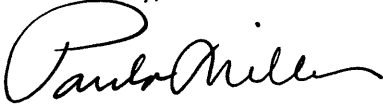
Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 are outside of my jurisdiction as the Director of Special Education services at MCOE.

3. I have never retaliated against an employee or singled someone out for utilizing the grievance procedure.

The report indicated Findings through 37, however they end at number 35.

This completes my responses to the report, if I can be of further assistance, please contact my office at 467-5172.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Paula Miller
Director of Special Education/Orr Creek School Principal

PM/kw