



MENDOCINO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

PAUL A. TICHININ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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July 20, 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, please refer to the attached document which is the formal response from the Mendocino County Board of Education.

Findings:

1-6, 8-22, 24-31, 33-35

Recommendations:

1-8, 10

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Tichinin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "T".

Paul Tichinin, Superintendent of Schools and Secretary to the Board

PAT/kw

Supplemental Response to Grand Jury Report Dated May 12, 2010

From the Mendocino County Board of Education

1. In accordance with Penal Code Section 933, the Mendocino County Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to comment on the finding and recommendations of the Grand Jury “pertaining to the matters under the control of the government body.”

The Mendocino County Board of Education is not an employer. By law, the County Superintendent of Education is the employer of all staff of Mendocino County Office of Education. By law, the County Board of Education has no control over employee matters. Furthermore, Mendocino County Board of Education is not the governing board of the Mendocino County SELPA. The SELPA governing board is the Superintendents Steering Committee made up of all district superintendents in the county. Hence, the Mendocino County Board has no control over the SELPA.

In light of the above, the Mendocino County Board of Education does not have control and/or jurisdiction over the following “Findings” or “Recommendation” and therefore no response/comment shall be provided.

Findings:

1-6, 8-22, 24-31, 33-35

Recommendations:

1-8, 10

Attached Statement:

2. Disagreement with Finding #23:

The regular meetings of the Mendocino County Board of Education are held on the 2nd Monday of each month beginning at 10:00 a.m. The County Board makes

a point of being available to the constituents of this County by holding its meetings throughout the County at different district sites throughout the school year. A schedule of our meetings and locations is available at www.mcoe.us. With regard to the start time of County Board meetings, the County Board, over the years, has discussed the option of moving the start time to later in the day. Thus far the Board has found that many community members appreciate that meetings are held throughout the county and this directly meets their needs for availability. Over the years, employees have attended our meetings and we certainly welcome their attendance. However, it needs to be understood that employment issues must be directed to the County Superintendent and not the County Board.

3. Further Analysis of Recommendation #9

This recommendation references meetings of MCOE. It is assumed, for purposes of this response that the Grand Jury meant meetings of the Mendocino County Board of Education. In that context, the schedule of County Board meetings is a topic on an annual basis –typically in December. However, in light of the Grand Jury recommendation, the County Board will have an agenda item within the next 6 months to review the issue of the start time of County Board meetings.