



## FORT BRAGG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Superintendent

Donald F. Armstrong, Ed.D.

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312 South Lincoln Street, Fort Bragg, California 95437-4416

Telephone (707) 961-2850 Fax (707) 964-5002

June 22, 2009

Finley Williams, Foreperson  
Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 629  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mr. Williams:

In compliance with California Penal Code Section 933.05, please find my required response to the 2008/2009 Mendocino Civil Grand Jury Report: Middling Through: A Report on the Four Mendocino County Middle Schools, dated May 12, 2009.

### Findings:

The Superintendent of the Fort Bragg Unified School District is required to respond to findings 1-31, 106-124 and 91-105. The Superintendent of FBUSD agrees with the findings.

### Recommendations:

The Superintendent of the Fort Bragg Unified School District is required to respond to recommendations 1-4 and 6-10. Following are the Superintendent's responses:

1. The Fort Bragg Unified School District currently communicates with both English and Spanish speaking parents and students in both languages. The FBUSD website is equipped with an automatic translator function that allows people to view the information in the language of their choice.
2. The Fort Bragg Unified School District emergency plan currently prints all contact phone numbers for television and radio stations that broadcast in our area. We currently do not have emails addresses for any of these stations.
3. The recommendation has been implemented. John Griffiths, Director of Maintenance and Operations is responsible for ensuring that fire extinguishers are in place in all classrooms and common areas at all schools. This duty has been added to the Emergency Response Plan.

4. The recommendation has been implemented. The Fort Bragg Unified School District continuously seeks out funding opportunities to support our programs. Categorical funds have been used to support these programs. Currently, the District uses State and Federal Categorical funding for provide counseling to our K-8 schools and we participate in the Willits and Fort Bragg Education Resiliency (WAFER) project funded as a grant along with the Mendocino County Division of Alcohol and other Drug Programs (AODP) for purposes of alcohol and drug interventions. Library staffing is provided through the School and Library Improvement Block Grant, a State categorical program. Sadly, many of these grants and categorical programs will be subject to funding reductions due to the current economic downturn, however the District will continue to pursue other funding sources.
6. The recommendation is being implemented throughout the District. Common planning time has been introduced at the middle school for 09-10 school year. Each of the schools in the FBUSD have a strong history of collaboration among its staff members. Furthermore, the District's curriculum committee has begun to coordinate collaboration amongst the schools with various projects.
7. FBUSD will continue its after school programs for the 2009-10 school year. It should be noted, however, that funding for these programs is tied to the State's fiscal condition and may experience cut backs in future budgets.
8. FBUSD welcomes any assistance in the area of curriculum and instruction from MCOE.
9. FBUSD has long been a partner with MCOE in increasing the technology available to students and teachers throughout the District.
10. FBUSD is encouraged by the new executive director at the Redwood Coast Senior Center and will gladly enter into feasible partnerships with RCSC.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your recommendations. We are very proud of the progress that has been made at the Fort Bragg Middle School. I believe that continued focus on the needs of our students and the training of our teachers will make FBMS one of the finest middle schools in the State.

Sincerely,

Donald F. Armstrong, Ed.D.  
Superintendent