



# MENDOCINO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

PAUL A. TICHININ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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July 16, 2009

Mendocino Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 629  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Grand Jury Foreperson:

In response to the Grand Jury Report entitled “**Abdication of Leadership and Disciplinary Breakdowns in Leggett Valley Unified School District**” dated May 21, 2009, my responses are as follows:

## Findings

I agree with the findings numbered: 30, 31, 32, 33

I disagree either wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 8, 13, 19, 29, 36

Unable to respond to the findings numbered: 16, 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 37, 38

8. Disagree, according to county office records Mr. Raebe was employed by Leggett Unified School District for eight years.
13. Agree in part, as a district superintendent must also rely upon principals, business managers and other district staff to effectively meet all of the day-to-day operations in a school district.
19. Agree in part, I am unable to confirm the discussion held between the grand jury and the sheriff’s deputies.
29. Disagree partially, the district has a “Community Relations” Policy and there is a section found within the policy that refers to issues of civility.
36. Disagree, I have seen a posted notice requiring visitors to check in at the school office.

There are twelve findings which I am unable to confirm or deny. These findings deal with issues of student confidentiality, conduct by the public at board meetings, athletic events and lock down drills. As indicated in finding number 13 the district

district superintendent and staff are responsible for the day to day operations of their school district and individual school sites. In my capacity as County Superintendent of Schools, I am typically not made aware of these types of incidents at school sites.

With regard to finding number 38; the only schools that the county superintendent has curriculum review and oversight responsibilities for are those schools designated as "Williams Schools", none of the schools in the Leggett School District are classified as a Williams School.

Lastly, with regard to findings, the report lists a number 39 under the required responses, however, the findings end with number 38.

### **Recommendations**

Number 14 under recommendations is not within the jurisdiction of the County Office of Education.

This completes my responses to the report, if I can be of further assistance, please contact my office at 467-5001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Tichinin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Paul A. Tichinin  
County Superintendent of Schools

PAT/kw