



## Grand Jury Report Transmittal (with Instructions and Response Form)

Debra Kubin  
Superintendent  
Willits Unified School District  
120 Pearl Street  
Willits, CA 95490

E-mailed to: dkubin@mcoe.us

Date: May 30, 2009

**RE: Report Titled:** *MIDDLEING THROUGH: A Report on Four Mendocino County Middle Schools*

**Dated:** May 12, 2009

Your response to the attached report by the 2008/2009 Mendocino County Civil Grand Jury is required pursuant to Penal Code §933.05 (enclosed). Penal Code §933.05 also requires that your response to the Findings and Recommendations contained in the report be in writing and be submitted within **60 days for individual responses from elected officials** or within **90 days for appointed officials and governing bodies** (including such entities as school boards and the Board of Supervisors).

Penal Code §933.05(f) specifically prohibits disclosure of the contents of this report by a public agency or its officers or governing body prior to the release to the public. The report will be released to the public and posted on the grand jury website two (2) or more days after the date of this letter.

The Penal Code is specific as to the format of responses. Complete and sign the enclosed Response Form and attach any additional comments as required.

Should you have any questions after reviewing the enclosures, please contact me at **grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us** or at the address above.

Sincerely,

Finley Williams  
2008/2009 Foreperson  
Mendocino County Grand Jury

## **For Your Information**

### SUMMARY OF PENAL CODE 933.05

Penal Code § 933.05 provides for only two (2) acceptable responses with which agencies and/or departments (respondents) may respond with respect to the **findings** of a Grand Jury report :

1. The respondent agrees with the finding.
2. The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the findings, *in which case the respondent shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.*

Penal Code § 933.05 provides for only four (4) acceptable responses with which agencies and/or departments (respondents) may respond with in respect to the **recommendations** of the Grand Jury.

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis, with a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency/department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. *This timeframe shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report.*
4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with a detailed explanation therefore.

However, If a finding and/or recommendation of the Grand Jury addresses **budgetary** or **personnel** matters of a county agency/department head and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if requested by the Grand Jury, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address **all** aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency/department.

Grand Jury Report  
RESPONSE FORM

**Grand Jury Report Title :** RE: Report Titled: ***MIDLING THROUGH: A Report on Four Mendocino County Middle Schools***

Dated: **May 12, 2009**

**Response Form Submitted By:**

Debra Kubin  
Superintendent  
Willits Unified School District  
120 Pearl Street  
Willits, CA 95490

E-mailed to: dkubin@mcoe.us

**Response MUST be submitted, per Penal Code §933.05, no later than: August 30, 2009**

***I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the FINDINGS portion of the report as follows:***

- I (we) agree with the Findings numbered:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the Findings numbered below, and have **attached, as required**, a statement specifying any portion of the Finding that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons therefore.  
\_\_\_\_\_

***I have reviewed the report and submit my responses to the RECOMMENDATIONS portion of the report as follows:***

- The following Recommendation(s) have have been implemented and **attached, as required**, is a summary describing the implemented actions:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The following Recommendation(s) have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, **attached, as required** is a time frame for implementation:  
\_\_\_\_\_

- The following Recommendation(s) require further analysis, and **attached as required**, is an explanation and the scope and parameters of the planned analysis, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared, discussed and approved by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed: (This time frame shall not exceed six (6) months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report)
- \_\_\_\_\_

- The following Recommendations will NOT be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not deemed reasonable, **attached, as required** is an explanation therefore:
- \_\_\_\_\_

*I have completed the above responses, and have attached, as required the following number of pages to this response form:*

Number of Pages attached: \_\_\_\_\_

*I understand that responses to Grand Jury Reports are public records. They will be posted on the Grand Jury website: [www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury](http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury). The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.*

*I understand that I must submit this signed response form and any attachments as follows:*

**First Step:** E-mail (word documents or scanned pdf file format) to:

- The Grand Jury Foreperson at: [grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:grandjury@co.mendocino.ca.us)
- The Presiding Judge: [grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov](mailto:grandjury@mendocino.courts.ca.gov)
- The County's Executive Office: [ceo@co.mendocino.ca.us](mailto:ceo@co.mendocino.ca.us)

**Second Step:** Mail all originals to:

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

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Jury Response Attachments  
WUSD Superintendent Debra Kubin**

**Response to Findings**

- In regard to **Finding #4**, we disagree with the statement regarding student access to arts, science and foreign language. Although there is a small percentage of students who require an additional math course so that they are successful in the regular math program, all other BGMS students participate in elective courses. In addition, students who take an additional math course have access to the after school Kids Club program which provides enrichment activities and to after school sports as well.
- In regard to **Finding #84**, we disagree to the statement that all students take two language arts classes and two math classes. All students who attend BGMS take two periods of language arts; however, not all students at BGMS take two periods of math. Only a small portion of students at the school take an additional math class.

**Response to Recommendations**

**Recommendations Implemented:**

- #2: The school site emergency plan has been updated to include telephone and e-mail contacts for all radio and television stations that broadcast in the county.
- #3: The school site emergency response plan has been updated to designate the custodial staff to ensure that working fire extinguishers are in place in all classrooms and common areas at all times when students are present.
- #4: WUSD wrote and was awarded a federal violence and drug prevention grant that began July 1, 2009. This grant will provide students in WUSD a 32 hour per week Marriage and Family Therapist who will provide mental health counseling, Associate Behavior Specialists who will work with parents of students aged 0 – 5, and an alcohol and drug counselor, among other portions of the grant. This four year grant will provide services to students in Laytonville, Willits and Round Valley and equals \$731,000 annually in grant funding. We are excited about this grant and will continue to seek additional grant funding for library and prevention activities.
- #6: WUSD will continue to implement the Professional Learning Communities structure across the district and will continue to provide content specific staff development to teachers.
- #7: WUSD will continue to partner with the Willits Kids Club to provide an after school program that is open until 6:00 PM each day. In addition, despite cutting over \$2 million from our budget, we continue to maintain our after school sports programs.
- #10: BGMS has been working diligently with a group of parents to increase partnerships with parents. In addition, BGMS has been partnering with the local nursery to beautify its campus. Finally, WUSD has reformed its educational foundation which is readying itself to embark on a fundraising campaign and Adopt-a-School program.

**Recommendations NOT Implemented:**

- #1, #8, and #9 are not relevant to WUSD.
- #5: WUSD has faced devastating budget reductions over the past several years, the most recent being from February through July having to cut over \$2 million from a \$17 million budget. Through regular inspections of school sites, the District does what it needs to make sure that no hazardous conditions exist for students. If any hazardous conditions are identified, they are repaired immediately. WUSD is in the process of creating a Facilities Master Plan which will be completed in November 2009. We are also in the process of discussing a Proposition 39 General Obligation Bond election for June 2010. If the election is declared and it passes, we will be able to modernize our campuses and possibly look at renewable energy implementation across the district. On the list to update asphalt surfaces at several campuses; however, I want to reiterate that WUSD is quick to correct any surfaces that pose hazardous safety conditions for kids.