



FORT BRAGG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent

Donald F. Armstrong, Ed.D.

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August 14, 2008

Mendocino County Grand Jury
P. O. Box 629
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Report Title : *“Hoops Now! Fort Bragg Alternative Schools!”* **Report Date :** June 17, 2008

Response by: Donald F. Armstrong, Ed.D., Superintendent **Date Due:** September 17, 2008

Findings: I agree with the findings numbered: 1-85

Recommendations:

Recommendation numbered 4 has been implemented. FBUSD construct the promised, previously funded sports courts (Hoops...NOW!) on the alternative school campuses and develop an appropriate fitness facility for Shelter Cove students.

The basketball courts will be completed by September 1, 2008.

Recommendations numbered: 1, 2, 5 and 7 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Recommendation 1. MCOE and FEUSD redefine MCOE's role in the updated Triennial Plan to ensure that FBUSD and other remote districts have access to support services, such as counseling, clean and sober classes, young parents programs and professional development for alternative school staff.

The Fort Bragg Unified School District welcomes the opportunity to discuss with other county agencies the needs of coastal youth and the redistribution of funds and services to support students in remote districts.

Recommendation 2. MCOE provide leadership for a professional learning community comprising all of those working in alternative education in Mendocino County, and hold at least one professional development gathering each semester and at least quarterly teleconferencing sessions.

FBUSD would gladly send representatives to professional development opportunities for alternative education teachers and strongly supports the establishment of professional learning communities among our staff and administration.

Recommendation 5. FBUSD install perimeter security cameras, classroom interior safety locks and window coverings in all alternative school classrooms. Hold lockdown drills on a regular basis.

Cameras and inside locks will be provided to the alternative education sites no later than December of 2008. Mini-blinds are scheduled to be installed prior to the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

Recommendation 7. FBUSD groundskeepers regularly maintain the alternative school campuses landscaping to ensure a welcoming appearance comparable with other FBUSD sites.

The principal of the alternative education schools has been instructed to request regular upkeep of the campuses from the district's groundskeepers.

Recommendations numbered: 3 and 6 require further analysis.

Recommendation 3. FBUSD provide the alternative school teachers with a prep period during each instructional day that is comparable to the prep periods provided for teachers at the middle school and comprehensive high school.

FBUSD provides both a prep period and a lunch period for its alternative education teachers. Instructional assistants are employed to supervise students during these times. The needs of the students will determine the need for additional prep time.

Recommendation 6. FBUSD administrators, Sheriff Deputies, Probation, SRO and other Fort Bragg Officers, Youth Workers and others who visit the alternative campuses make a concerted effort to increase the adult presence on campus and, especially, their visibility and informal interactions with students.

FBUSD is an active partner with the City of Fort Bragg and the County of Mendocino in providing youth related services to our students. We will discuss increased adult presence on the alternative education sites with our partners.

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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/ The clerk of the responding agency is required to maintain a copy of the response.

Date: August 14, 2008

Signed:

Donald F. Armstrong, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Fort Bragg Unified School District

Number of response pages attached: Three