

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Charter Schools: A Matter of Choice

Report Date: February 23, 2007

Response by: Novato USD Board Title: President

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F1, F4, F5
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefore.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R2 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

- Recommendations numbered R1 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

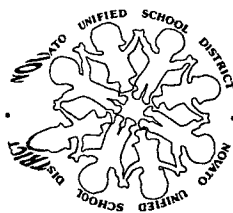
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)

- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented, because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 1/2/08

Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached 0



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Jan La Torre-Derby
Superintendent

Karin J. Hern, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury 2006-07
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #303
San Rafael, Ca 94903-4988

April 3, 2007

Dear Grand Jury Members,

Thank you for sending your final report on Charter Schools. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with you, and I feel that our meeting was very productive and helpful. I also appreciate your attendance at several board meetings to learn of our work with the elementary and high school charters in Novato.

The report was distributed to our trustees. They were impressed with your knowledge of our program and the alignment of your report with the strengths and areas for improvement for our two charters. They reviewed your recommendations and concur with your findings.

I am responding to your request for further information regarding items F1, F4, F5, R1, and R2 from the perspective of Novato Unified School District (NUSD).

F1: Marin charter schools are providing a choice for parents and students who seek something other than traditional teaching methods, one of the objectives of the charter legislation

Response:

Novato Unified School District prides itself on providing options for students. Over the past 30 years, NUSD trustees expanded options for parents and students as follows:

1. Self-contained GATE K-8
 - Elementary school students attend at Lynwood Elementary School
 - Middle school classes at all three middle schools - Hill, San Jose, and Sinaloa Middle Schools
2. Rancho Essential School - K-5

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