UNION SCHOOL
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September 14, 2012

The Honorable James Ritchie
Presiding Judge
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Michael Chernock, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Your Honor and Mr. Foreperson:

Attached is the response requested by the 2011-2012 Marin County Civil Grand Jury of the Union Joint School District to the report entitled **"Restorative Justice: Its Time Has Come in Marin County."**

Thank you for this report and for the other work the Grand Jury has done both present and past to support public education in our community. Having the best possible schools requires the involvement of every citizen. The partnership of the Grand Jury over the years has made a difference in the lives of students and their families.

Sincerely,

LUKE McCANN, Superintendent Designee
Union Joint School District

RESPONSE FROM THE
UNION JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO THE FINDINGS (F) and RECOMMENDATIONS (R) OF
THE 2011-2012 MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT

"Restorative Justice: Its Time Has Come in Marin County"

FINDINGS

F1) In Marin County, restorative justice has been successfully employed in a limited number of schools in lieu of suspensions or expulsion.

Response: We agree with this finding.

F2) In Marin County, schools have reduced the loss of state funding using restorative justice techniques to decrease suspensions.

Response: Education funding involves a complex set of laws, regulations and procedures. In Marin County, some districts' revenue is based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) as described in the Grand Jury report and other districts are considered "Basic Aid" districts and do not receive ADA revenue. However, all schools share the goal of making certain that all students are present and engaged in learning at all times. Best practices for ensuring that attendance and engagement include restorative models rather than suspension and expulsion.

F3) Seth's law requires that schools establish an effective bullying response system.

Response: AB9 (Seth's Law) is a very important step in ensuring the safety of all children. Marin County School Administrators have already received current training in this new requirement and are working within each district to ensure that all staff, parents and students understand the elements of the law and, most importantly, what to do to keep all of our children, staff and community members safe.

F4) In Marin County, restorative justice has been used to deal with bullying in the schools.

Response: We agree with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION

R2) Marin County school districts and their boards institute the use of restorative justice practices.

Response: It is the position of the Union Joint School District Board of Trustees that services such as restorative justice will be implemented as resources and priorities of the district may allow and with the support of the Marin County Office of Education, Safe Schools and professional development trainings.