

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Marin Public Schools Fail to Beat Bullies

Report Date: 6/2/16

Agenda Date: 8/9/16

Response by: Thomas J. Lohwasser Title: Superintendent

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F3
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: F1, F2
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: _____

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R4, R5, R6 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R1, R2, R3 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: 8/9/16 Signed: 
Thomas J. Lohwasser, Superintendent

Number of pages attached 3



DIXIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 9, 2016

The Honorable Judge Kelly V. Simmons
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Dear Judge Simmons,

Pursuant to your request of June 2, 2016, following are the Dixie School District's responses to Findings F1-3 and Recommendations R1-6 in the Grand Jury's report entitled "Marin Public Schools Fail to Beat Bullies".

FINDINGS

F1. Bullying is a problem in Marin middle and high schools. Marin ranked above the State average overall in incidents for the 2011-13 school years and for two of the three grade levels surveyed in CHKS.

Response:

Partially disagree

The California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) is given in our district every two years. The CHKS was given in 2016 and our Middle School, Miller Creek, scored high on the School Climate Report Card. The School Climate Index scores range from approximately 100-500. High scores represent a positive school climate; higher support and engagement; and lower levels of violence.

- Miller Creek School Climate Report Card showed a score of 484/500, which was an increase of +110 points from 2014. This high score indicates a very positive school climate.

F2. Marin County schools do not fully comply with California anti-bullying law.

Response:

Partially agree

Dixie School District does not fully comply with the California anti-bullying law.

- Dixie School District will have a direct link to our newly revised anti-bullying policies and incident reporting forms on the homepage of our district's website. All publications will be easier to find for all stakeholders.
- The Dixie School District's policy is up-to-date.

F3. Most schools do not have a direct link on their website home page to their anti-bullying policies and procedures.

Response:

Agree

Dixie School District did not have a direct link to the anti-bullying policies and procedures.

- Dixie School District will have a direct link to our newly revised anti-bullying our newly revised anti-bullying policies and incident reporting forms on the homepage of our district's website. All publications will be easier to find for all stakeholders.
 - WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)
 - Kid-Power

- Welcoming Schools
- Lunch Crew
- No Name Calling Week
- Peer-Court
- Restorative Justice
- Parent Handbook

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Each school in the district should review its policies and procedures to ensure full compliance with the requirements of Seth's Law.

Response:

Recommendation R1 has not yet been fully implemented but will be in the future.

- The staff will review the Bullying Board Policy and Administrative Regulation.
- The staff will review the fillable reporting forms and procedures.
- The anti-bullying policy will be posted in all schools and offices including staff lounges and pupil government meeting rooms.
- The anti-bullying policy and complaint-filing procedures will be publicized to pupils, parents, employees, agents of the governing board and the public (with necessary translations).
- The anti-bullying policy and complaint-filing procedures will be in the Parent Handbook available on the district website and at schools and offices.

- R2. Each school in the district should review its policies and procedures to ensure that complainants are protected from retaliation, and that their identity remains confidential.

Response:

Recommendation R2 has not yet been fully implemented but will be in the future.

- The staff will review the Bullying Board Policy and Administrative Regulation in regards to retaliation and the person being protected from retaliation, and that their identity remains confidential.

- R3. Each school in the district should adequately publicize its anti-bullying policies and procedures through its website, including a direct link to the anti-bullying policy and procedures and fillable reporting form.

Response:

Recommendation R3 has not yet been fully implemented but will be in the future.

- Although the Dixie School District had a link to the anti-bullying policy and procedures, the district has changed it to a direct link to the anti-bullying policy and procedures and fillable reporting form.

- R4. All procedures and forms for filing a bullying complaint, including an anonymous complaint, should be available on the school's website.

Response:

Recommendation numbered R4 has been implemented.

- Although the Dixie School District contained a link to the page containing all of our policies, the district added a direct link on the homepage to the anti-bullying policy and procedures and fillable reporting form.
- All school websites will have a direct link to the anti-bullying policy and procedures.

R5. Each school in the district's website should provide the option to complete and submit bullying complaints online.

Response:

Recommendation numbered R5 has been implemented.

- Each school in the district's website includes a direct link to the anti-bullying policy and procedures and fillable reporting form.

R6. Each school in the district should review its student and parent education programs to ensure they are relevant and current. Schools should consider using the No Bully Solution Team process that has been reported to be highly successful, or another equivalent program.

Response:

Recommendation numbered R6 has been implemented.

- The Dixie District reviews the Annual Update of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) with all stakeholders and discusses all of the programs that are being used to assist in anti-bullying.
- A goal of Student Safety is included in each school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).
- Each school in the district reviews their Site Safety Plan annually.
- Programs at all school sites include:
 - iWeek
 - Cooperative Adventures with Dave Nettell
 - Kimochi
 - No Bully/Solution Teams
 - Zones of Regulation
 - Life Skills
 - Code of Conduct
 - BACR Counseling
 - Counseling at Middle School
 - Gender Spectrum

Thank you for an insightful report. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Lohwasser, Ed.D.
Dixie School District Superintendent

Sincerely,



Mark Schott, President
Dixie School District Board of Education

cc:

John Mann, Foreperson
Marin County Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903