



ROSS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent: Dr. Rick E. Bagley | Board of Trustees: Annelise Bauer Anne Capron Wesley Pratt Mark Reagan Amy Stock

February 23, 2017

Jay Hamilton-Roth, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Mr. Hamilton-Roth:

On August 10, 2016, the Ross Valley School District submitted its response to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's letter concerning its findings and recommendations in the report titled. "**Marin Public Schools Fail to Beat Bullies.**"

Our district is aware of and has done much to address the issue of bullying. The Ross Valley School District (RVSD) responded to the concerns raised and addressed these issues immediately to ensure that all students feel safe and comfortable in schools and beyond.

On behalf of the District Administration and Trustees, I am responding to the subsequent letter dated January 16, 2017. We apologize for not responding with the District actions as promised by December 2016. However, the District has complied to the recommendations.

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

On August 11, 2016, one of the focuses of the Administration Council meeting included a presentation on the legal requirements for immediate response to bullying. Principals and District Office Administrators received training on investigation of all concerns related to bullying, harassment and intimidation. In addition, the training included protocols to document bullying, harassment and intimidation in the District student database (AERIES). During back to school meetings with all staff (certificated and classified) the Principal's explained that all staff would complete the 30 minute online training by Keenan. Training occurred within the first 30 days of school or for staff hired after that date would complete the training within 30 days of employment.

Staff will receive annual training, and evidence of follow through will be collected by the Director of Student Services. These protocols will be included in each school's Comprehensive School Safety Plan.

R3: Each school in the district should adequately publicize its anti-bullying policies and procedures through its website, including a direct link on the website's home page to the information (not simply linking to a lengthy student handbook, but directly to the anti-bullying policy and procedures themselves).

Ross Valley School District publicizes its anti-bullying policies and procedures through its website, under the Parents Section. The section is titled, "Safe School Environment" and annually, parents receive a Parent Acknowledgement Form highlighting policies including Bullying – Harassment BP 5131.2. Information on bullying, harassment and intimidation is included in the Student Parent Handbook and on page 26 the form to report suspected bullying, harassment and intimidation is on page 26 of the Appendix.

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

A direct link to anti-bullying policies and procedures is on the Parent Page of each school website as well as on the Parent News Page

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

There is a link on the website that allows any individual to report anonymously information that they suspect bullying, harassment and intimidation. These reports are investigated in the same timely fashion as other complaints.

Finally, all of our schools have responded to bullying, harassment and intimidation by providing a variety of student programs that teach students about bullying. Our schools are focusing on teaching tolerance, understanding responsible use of the internet, restorative justice practices, and using positive behavior supports.

Sincerely,



Teri Louer, M.Ed.
Director Student Services