

SHORELINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 198 Tomales, California 94971 (707) 878-2266 FAX: (707) 878-2554



~~April 11~~, 2016
August 18,

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

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

Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Mann,


Attached to this letter are the requested responses from the Shoreline Unified District School District to the findings and recommendations of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report regarding: **Marin Public Schools Fail to Beat Bullies.**

Thank you for investigating this important issue that impacts our families and communities. Keeping students safe is always our first concern. Our District will take the necessary steps to ensure that all students feel safe and comfortable in our schools.

We look forward to working together with the Marin County Office of Education in a coordinated effort to address this challenging issue. Again, thank you for your support in keeping the students in our schools safe.

Sincerely,


Jill Manning-Sartori,
SUSD Board President


Bob Raines, Superintendent

Response to Grand Jury Report Shoreline Unified School District

Report Title: Marin Public Schools Fail to Beat Bullies

Report Date: June 2, 2016

Board Agenda Date: August 18, 2016

FINDINGS

- **We agree with the findings numbered: 1**

- **We disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: 2, 3**

We partially disagree with finding #2, that Marin County Schools do not fully comply with the laws regarding prevention of bullying. We cannot speak for other districts in Marin County, though we can assert that the Shoreline Unified School District complies with all laws regarding bullying prevention.

We partially disagree with finding #3, that policies and complaint procedures are not posted on district and school websites. The Shoreline Unified School District schools have historically posted policies and complaint procedures on their websites. The District will ensure that these postings are more prominent.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been implemented.

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

Bullying and anti-bullying measures are referenced in the following Board Policies:

- 0410 (Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)
- 0440 (Technology Plan cites the Discipline BP)
- 0450 (Comprehensive Safety Plan)
- 1114 (District Sponsored Social Media)
- 1312.3 (Uniform Complaint Procedures)
- 4119.21 (Professional Standards)
- 4219.21 (Professional Standards)
- 4319.21 (Professional Standards)
- 5030 (Wellness)
- 5113.1 (Chronic Absence and Truancy)
- 5131 (Conduct)
- 5131.2 (Bullying) (Ed Code sections 234 (234.1-234.5))

5141.27 (Food allergies and special dietary needs)
5144 (Discipline)
5144.1 (Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
5145.3 (Nondiscrimination/Harassment)
5145.7 (Sexual Harassment)
6142.8 (Comprehensive Health Education)
6144 (Controversial Issues)
6163.4 (Student Use of Technology)

Policies and no-tolerance-of-bullying statements are in all school handbooks, available from school offices and on-line

The Uniform Complaint Process procedures are also posted on school webpages and included in handbooks.

R2. Each school in the district should review its policies and procedures to ensure that complainants are protected from retaliation, and that their identities remain confidential, as appropriate.

Protection from retaliation is addressed in the following Board Policies 1312.3, 4119.21, 4219.21, 4318.21, 5131.2, and 5145.3, and is addressed in each school's procedures.

The following recommendations have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. (Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

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 homepage to the information (not simply linking to a lengthy student handbook, but directly to the anti-bullying policy and procedures themselves).

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

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

While anti-bullying policies and reporting procedures are available on-line, the District will make them more accessible with direct links by the end of September, 2016. The District will also make the reporting forms available for completion on-line.

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.

The District is exploring participating in the *StopIt!* anti-bullying program that is being provided through the Redwood Empire School Insurance Group (RESIG). This program includes education for students, teachers, staff and parents, as well as a smart phone app for anonymous reporting of bullying (and other inappropriate actions), that includes a means of tracking complaints and administrative responses. This program will be piloted by RESIG in the fall of 2016, and rolled out to member districts in the spring of 2017.

Date August 9, 2016

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Raines", written in a cursive style.

Bob Raines

Superintendent