



5.11.16

The Honorable Kelly V. Simmons
Presiding Judge
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4900

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 Ross School District to the Marin Civil Grand Jury Report: **2015-16 Web Transparency Report Card: Bringing Marin County's Local Governments to Light.**

We support the Grand Jury's emphasis on transparency by public agencies, including school districts. It is always our intention to make information requested by the public or required by law available in the most efficient way possible. This response, in accordance with law, was presented at our Board meeting on 5.11.16. A copy of the agenda is attached.

The district has reviewed its website using as a reference the self-evaluation form provided by the Grand Jury and appreciates having the checklist as a guide for future improvement. While some of the information not found by the Grand Jury is posted to the website, it is noted that there may be areas of the website that require improved organization to increase ease of use.

Sincerely,



John Longley
President of the Board



Michael McDowell, Ed.D.
Superintendent

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: 2015-2016 Web Transparency Report Card: Bringing Marin County's Local Governments to Light

Report Date: March 10, 2016

Public Release Date: March 17, 2016

Response by: June 10, 2016

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with findings numbered:
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 1,2, and 3
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered 1,2, and 3 have been implemented. **(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)**
- Recommendations numbered _____ 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: 5/11/16

Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 3



Ross School District Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury
*2015-2016 Web Transparency Report Card: Bringing Marin County's Local
Governments to Light*
Response Date: May 11, 2016

Finding #	Finding	RSD Response
F1	As of October 28th, 27 Marin local agencies lacked public websites (and of the 99 agencies that have web sites, 65 did not satisfy the Grand Jury's web transparency criteria).	The Ross School District has the current year and 3 prior year budgets located under the Administration and the Chief Business Official, Elected Officials include the BP on compensation and has a literal description of compensation posted on the Board page. Administrative Officials include the exact same level of detail as those school districts receiving a B or above. All audits are included under "Financial Reports" under Chief Business Official. Public Records is included under "About Us" on our website see "Public Records Request".
F2	Inspecting the Marin County Clerk's <i>Roster of Public Agencies</i> , the Grand Jury discovered a majority of local agencies out of compliance per California Government Code 53051 (no filings or outdated filings).	The Ross School District updated, approved, and submitted a Statement of Facts Roster of Public Agencies Filing (Government Code section 53051) to the Secretary of State, P.O. Box 942870, Sacramento, CA 94227-2870 on 12.10.15. The Statement of Facts was filed on December 31, 2015.
F3	Effective January 1, 2015, Assembly Bill (AB) 2040 requires that if a public agency "maintains an Internet Web site, it shall post, in a conspicuous location on its Internet Web site, information on the annual compensation of its elected officials, officers, and employees that is submitted to the Controller under 53891. The Grand Jury discovered a majority of the agencies were out of compliance (and potentially at-risk for fines and/or audit), per California Government Code sections 53895, 53895.7, and 53896)	The District salaries are included for all employees under "About Us", "Employment", and "Salary Schedules." Information regarding compensation for elected officials is located under "Board", "Board of Trustees." In addition, it is a searchable feature within our agenda online search feature. The directions for using the search feature are found under "Salary Schedule."

Recommendation #	Recommendation	RSD Response
R1	The agency should improve its web transparency score to "B-" (or better), by updating its website and submitting the appropriate self-audit form. The form may be obtained by emailing: grandjury-audit@marincounty.org	The Ross School District submitted a memo to the Marin County Grand Jury on December 10th, 2015 articulating web-site transparency. The Ross School District submitted a request for a self-audit form on March 16th, 2016 and completed the audit on March 17th, 2016 to ensure that the scorecard is changed to reflect the information aligned within the scorecard criteria.
R2	The agency should file and keep updated its Statement of Facts with the California Secretary of State and the Marin County Clerk as required by California Code 53051	The Ross School District updated, approved, and submitted a Statement of Facts Roster of Public Agencies Filing (Government Code section 53051) to the Secretary of State, P.O. Box 942870, Sacramento, CA 94227-2870 on 12.10.15. The Statement of Facts was filed on December 31, 2015.
R3	The agency should update its website to include information of the annual compensation of its elected officials, officers and employees and this information should also be submitted to the Controller, as required by Sections 12463 and 53909 of the California Government Code	The District includes salary schedules for all employees under "About Us", "Employment", and "Salary Schedules." Information regarding compensation for elected officials is located under "Board", "Board of Trustees." Moreover, the "Salary Schedules" site includes a description on how to access administrative compensation.

Ross School District
Regular Board Meeting
May 11, 2016 6:00 PM
Room 5
Closed Session: 6:00 PM
Open Session: 7:00 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Longley, President
Josh Fisher, Vice-President
Todd Blake
Whit Gaither
Stephanie Robinson

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Michael McDowell, Superintendent
Debbie Wolfe, Chief Business Officer

- Non-exempt written Board meeting materials that are distributed to the Board are available for public inspection in the Ross School District Office located at 9 Lagunitas Road, Ross, California at the time of distribution to the Board.
- Assistance will be provided to those requiring reasonable accommodations for disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Interested persons must request reasonable accommodations at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting by contacting the Superintendent's Office at (415) 457-2705.

Vision of Ross School:

We are an exceptional learning community that connects children to the world by keeping their hearts, minds and actions at the center of all we do.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL 6:00

II. OPEN SESSION 6:00

II.A. Approval of Closed Session Agenda

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION AGENDA 6:00-6:05

III.A. This is an opportunity for the public to comment on Closed Session items.

IV. CLOSED SESSION 6:05-7:00

IV.A. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code 54957:

-Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent's Goals

-Title: Superintendent

IV.B. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code 54957:

-Public Employment

-Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release and/or Reassignment

IV.C. With respect to every item of business to be discussed in Closed Session pursuant to Government Code 54957.6 :

Agency Designated Representative: Superintendent, Dr. Michael McDowell

Employee Organization: Ross School District Teachers' Association

V. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION 7:00

V.A. Announcement of any reportable action taken in Closed Session.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA and ESTIMATED TIME ALLOCATIONS 7:00-7:05

VI.A. The Board reserves the right to address matters earlier than specified if needed. Opportunity for Trustees to remove items from the Consent Agenda.

VII. COMMUNICATION 7:05-7:10

VII.A. Audience

At this time members of the audience may address the Board on non-agenda items that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

-Board cannot respond to items not on the agenda.

-Comments are limited to two minutes.

VII.B. Board Correspondence

VII.C. District Correspondence

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA 7:10-7:15

VIII.A. Minutes

April 20, 2016 Regular Board Meeting

April 20, 2016 Governance Workshop

VIII.B. Warrants

20123504-20123519 (45); 20124605-20124614 (46);

2012489120124905 (47); 20125683-20125701 (48)

VIII.C. 2016-2017 Instructional Minutes

VIII.D. Policy Updates

BP/AR 1312.3 Uniform Complaint Procedures; BP 2121

Superintendent's Contract; BP/AR 3515.2 Disruptions; BP/E 3515.7

Firearms on School Grounds; BP/AR 3553 Free and Reduced Price

Meals; AR 4161.1/4261.1/4361.1 Personal Injury/Illness Leave; AR 4161.2/4261.2/4361.2 Personal Leaves; BP 5146 Married/Pregnant/Parenting Students; BP/AR 6142.7 Physical Education and Activity; BP 6152 Class Assignment; AR 6162.51 State Academic Achievement Tests; BP 6164.2 Guidance/Counseling Services

Minor Revisions: BP 3270 Sale and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies; AR 3550 Food Service/Child Nutrition Program; AR 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 Personnel Files; AR 6173.2 Education of Children of Military Families; AR 7111 Evaluating Existing Buildings

VIII.E. P2 Attendance Report

VIII.F. 2016-2017 Board Meeting Calendar

VIII.G. 2016-2017 Board Agenda Calendar

VIII.H. 2016-2017 Contract for K-4 Principal/Director of Student Support Services

VIII.I. 2016-2017 Contract for 5-8 Principal/Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

VIII.J. Sonoma State University Student Teaching Agreement

IX. COMMUNITY RELATIONS 7:15-7:45

IX.A. Science Fair Winners (Discussion)

IX.B. Margie Burke Speech Tournament Winners (Discussion)

IX.C. Graduation (Discussion)

X. REPORTS 7:45-8:05

X.A. Superintendent

X.A.1. Foundation Year End Report (Discussion)

X.B. Board

X.B.1. Approval of Second Interim Budget Report from Marin County Office of Education

XI. BREAK 8:05-8:10

XII. STUDENT LEARNING 8:10-8:30

XII.A. National Board Certified Teacher MOU: National Board Resource Center (NBRC), Stanford University and Marin County Office of Education (Discussion/Action)

XII.B. National Board Certified Teacher MOU: Ross School District and Ross School District Teachers' Association (Discussion/Action)

XIII. GOVERNANCE 8:30-9:00

XIII.A. 2016 Governance Handbook (Discussion/Action)

**XIII.B. Response to Grand Jury Report - 2015-2016 Web Transparency Report Card:
Bringing Marin County's Local Governments to Light (Discussion)**

XIII.C. Strategic Initiatives Update (Discussion)

XIV. POLICY 9:00-9:15

XIV.A. DRAFT BP 3312-Contract (Discussion/Action)

XIV.B. DRAFT BP/AR/E 5111.1-District Residency (Discussion/Action)

XV. FINANCE 9:15-9:25

XV.A. 2016-2017 Draft Budget (Discussion)

XVI. PROPOSED SUBMISSION OF ITEMS FOR June 1, 2016 9:25-9:30

XVI.A. Finance

1. 2016-2017 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Public Hearing

2. 2016-2017 Budget Public Hearing

XVI.B. Community Relations

1. School and Community Honorees

XVII. PROPOSED SUBMISSION OF ITEMS FOR June 15, 2016 9:30-9:35

XVII.A. Governance

1. 2016-2017 Board Goals and Priorities

2. Strategic Planning Update

3. 2016-2017 Action Plan-DRAF

XVII.B. Student Learning

1. Enrollment Report

2. Site Council Year End Report: California Healthy Kids Survey
(CHKS)

3. Approval: Site Council's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA)

4. Approval: 2016-2017 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

5. Benchmark Evaluation

XVII.C. Finance

1. Consolidated Application Parts 1 & 2

2. 2016-2017 Budget Adoption

3. Education Protection Act Annual Resolution

XVII.D. Human Resources

1. Declaration of Need

2. 2016-2017 Chief Business Official Contract

XVIII. EVALUATION OF THE MEETING 9:35-9:40

XIX. ADJOURNMENT 9:40