



8.30.16

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

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

Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Roth:

Attached to this letter are the requested responses from the Ross School District to the Marin Civil Grand Jury letter on August 12th, 2016 entitled "Re: 2015-2016 Web Transparency Report Card."

The Ross School District has reviewed its website using the self-evaluation form provided by the Grand Jury as a reference and has reviewed the Marin County Grand Jury's response to recommendations R1 and R3 on August 12th. The Ross School District has changed its response from the June 10, 2016 "Response to Grand Jury Report." Please find further detail attached.

Sincerely,

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: August 12, 2016 **Public Release Date:** March 17, 2016

Response by: August 30th, 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 _____ 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 1,2 and 3 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable. **(Attach an explanation.)**

Date: _____

Number of pages attached: 4

Signed: _____





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: August 30th, 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).	<p>The Ross School District has the current year and 3 prior year budgets located under the Administration page. By clicking on the Chief Business Official tab, financial reports are offered for public review. Under the Board tab, the Board of Trustees sub-tab includes a specific hyperlink to Board Bylaws 9250 indicating expectations for compensation and reimbursement.</p> <p>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".</p>
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 was changed to reflect the information aligned within the scorecard criteria. The District submitted a response on May 11 th , 2016 and included information including district boundaries and district compensation information. The Board of Trustees, staff, and local community concur that the website provides the transparency needed to understand the operations of the school district and where tax dollars are allocated.
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. Furthermore, a link to Transparent California is included on the website.