



LAGUNA SCHOOL

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June 6, 2017

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

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

Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Hamilton-Roth:

Attached please find the response requested by the 2016-2017 Marin County Civil Grand Jury from the Laguna Joint School District Board to the recommendation (R4) that "Each school district should investigate building teacher and staff workforce housing on their land." We appreciate that the Grand Jury recognizes the cost of housing in Marin County is an impediment to recruiting and retaining the best-qualified staff for our schools. While Senate Bill 1413 paved the way for schools to establish and implement affordable workforce housing, research is currently underway to determine how to best approach a situation that requires land, financing and property management.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Hess".

Sharon Hess, President
Laguna Joint District Board of Education

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Luke McCann".

Luke McCann, Superintendent
Laguna Joint School District

RECOMMENDATION

R4: Each school district should investigate building teacher and staff workforce housing on their land.

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis.

While our schools agree that there is a need for affordable housing for educators in Marin County, not all school districts in Marin County are in a position to offer land for workforce housing. Several considerations are in need of review prior to building including financing, risk and the long-term facilities needs for our schools.

In 2009, the Efficiency and Effectiveness Task Force (EE), composed of superintendents, school district trustees and the Marin County Office of Education, was established in an effort to identify ways in which the agencies could collaborate to be more effective and efficient in their daily operations. Over the past year, the EE has made the topic of affordable housing a priority and is researching this issue through a variety of methods including:

- Developing an inventory of currently available property,
- Surveying staff to determine the level of interest/need,
- Reviewing unique financing options available, and
- Reviewing successful efforts elsewhere in the state.

In addition, the EE hired a consultant to develop a realistic cost estimate for providing workforce housing, including the alternatives of building on currently owned land or purchasing an existing multi-unit facility. Such possibilities exist under Senate Bill 1413 signed in 2016. The work of the EE will continue into the 2017-18 year.