



REED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

277 A Karen Way Tiburon, CA 94920 tel: 415.381.1112 fax: 415.384.0890
www.reedschools.org

Board of Trustees:

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May 25, 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 to the report "Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability" dated April 12, 2017, from the Reed Union School District Board of Trustees. 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.

Sincerely,



President, RUSD Board of Education



RUSD Superintendent

Reed Union School District Response
to the 2016-17 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report
Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability

RECOMMENDATION

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

Response:

On March 7, 2017, the Reed Union School District Board of Trustees considered item *O.1 Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Use of Surplus District Property to Build Workforce Housing*. A presentation by Dutra Cerro and Graden, consultants shared options of how districts are addressing the housing shortage for employees.

Additionally, on March 29, 2017 the superintendent met with a representative from Landed to discuss the potential of finding local donors to support teachers in reducing the amount of down payment necessary to purchase a home. The superintendent facilitated connections to a few community members.

The topic of workforce housing is a complex topic with the potential to benefit ALL districts in our county. As such, it was prudent for districts to collaborate in efforts to research and potentially implement a system.

As a member of the countywide Efficiency and Effectiveness Task Force (EE), the superintendent has engaged in workforce housing discussions and worked with other district representatives for more than a year. The task force was formed in 2009 and is composed of superintendents, school district trustees, College of Marin administration and the Marin County Office of Education. It 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 workforce 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.