



# ROSS School District

*A California  
Distinguished  
School*

## Ross School District Response

June 14th, 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,

*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.*

Attached please find the response requested by the 2016-2017 Marin County Civil Grand Jury from the Ross School District Board to the recommendation (R4) that "Each school district should investigate building teacher and staff workforce housing on their land." 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.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Josh Fisher, President  
Ross School District Board of Education

Michael McDowell, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Ross School District

*Todd Blake*

*Josh Fisher*

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**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**Response:**

**Option C**

The recommendation requires further analysis.

While the Ross School District agrees that there is a need for affordable housing for educators in Marin County, the Ross School District is not in a position to offer land for workforce housing. Several considerations are in need of review prior to building including financing, reviewing potential spacing availability with the town of Ross, and 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 Ross School District will continue to look to the EE for potential solutions for our employees across Marin County.