

June 26, 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

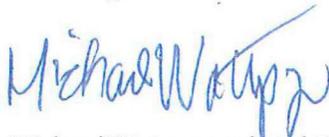
Dear Judge Simmons and Mr. Hamilton-Roth:

The San Rafael City Schools (SRCS) Board of Education, together with Dr. Michael Watenpaugh, Superintendent, acknowledge the efforts of the 2016-2017 Marin County Civil Grand Jury for highlighting challenges with affordable housing in the greater Marin community, outlined in its report dated April 6, 2017, titled "Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability." Attached please find SRCS' response to the report, specifically 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 that housing costs in Marin are a hindrance to recruiting and retaining the best-qualified teachers and 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,



Michael Watenpaugh, Ed.D.
District Superintendent



Rachel Kertz
Board of Education President

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability

Report Date: April 6, 2017

Response Date: July 12, 2017

Agency Name: San Rafael City Schools Agenda Date: June 26, 2017

Response by: Michael Waterpaugh Title: Superintendent

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered R 4 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: 6/26/17 Signed: Michael Waterpaugh

Number of pages attached 1

Response from San Rafael City Schools
To
“Overcoming Barriers to Housing Affordability”
2016-2017 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report

R4:

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

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented as a collaborative effort of all school districts in Marin County, including San Rafael City Schools (SRCS).

Workforce housing is a complex issue with many significant factors to consider, but it does have the potential to benefit all school districts in our county. Given this, it was prudent for area school districts to collaborate to research, identify options and potentially implement a system that would be successful for all stakeholders.

In 2009, the Efficiency and Effectiveness Task Force (EE), which includes local superintendents, school district board members and the Marin County Office of Education, was established to identify ways in which the schools and agencies could work together to be more effective and efficient in their daily operations. SRCS has had leadership and representation on this important task force. Additionally, a SRCS trustee was co-chair of the EE during the 2016-17 school year. Over the past year, the EE has made the topic of affordable housing a priority and is currently investigating this issue through a variety of methods, including:

- Developing an inventory of currently available property,
- Surveying teachers and 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 for education employees, including the alternatives of building on currently owned land or purchasing an existing multi-unit facility. Such possibilities exist under Senate Bill 1413, which was signed in 2016.

The work of the EE will continue into the 2017-2018 school year and SRCS looks forward to continuing to participate.

Ultimately, the local Boards of Education, superintendents, and the entire school community will need to engage with the issues if we are to be successful. Local elected officials and governmental bodies (city councils, planning commissions, county government, etc.) are also critical to the process and must be involved.