



# SAUSALITO MARIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Superintendent:*  
*Board of Trustees:*

*Will McCoy*  
*Joshua Barrow(President), Ida Green, Thomas Newmeyer,*  
*Debra Turner and Caroline Van Alst*

1895 - 2017

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:

This letter is in response to the request made by the 2016-2017 Marin County Civil Grand Jury of the Sausalito Marin City School District Board regarding the recommendation 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 SB 1413 provided the opportunity 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.

At this time, the issue requires further analysis. While we agree that there is a need for affordable housing for educators in Marin County, our district is not in the position to offer land for workforce housing at this time. Several considerations would need to be reviewed prior pursuing the construction of housing for employees, including financing, risk and the long-term facility needs of our district and school.

Based upon information provided to our district, we understand the following:

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 the issue through a variety of methods including:

- Developing an inventory of currently available property
- Surveying staff to determine levels 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 to building on currently owned land or purchasing an existing multi-unit facility. Such possibilities exist under SB 1413 (2016). We support the work of the EE and will follow/participate in the progress of their work.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Barrow".

Joshua Barrow, President  
Sausalito Marin City School District  
Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Will McCoy".

Will McCoy, Superintendent  
Sausalito Marin City School District