

OPERB

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8.23.17

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 Ross School District Board to the recommendations from the report "The Big Picture: Funding Marin's Public Employee Pensions & Retirement Health Care"

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Josh Fisher, President
Ross School District Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, stylized loop followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Michael McDowell, Ed.D.
Ross School District Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION

FUNDING OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Recommendation #1-3

The Ross School District has a written policy for contributions to its Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) plan and is documented with annual audit reports. Ross School utilizes a 'pay-as-you-go' strategy to pay OPEB costs.

Moreover, the Ross School District illustrated OPEB plan assets will be sufficient to make all projected OPEB benefit payments through annual GASB 75 reporting and board approval.

Recommendation #4 The Ross School District has established a separate fund for Post Employment Benefits. Given the potential volatile nature of basic aid funding, the Ross School District has a revocable fund that requires board approval to shift funding from Post Employment Benefits to other sources.

FINANCIAL LITERACY, TRANSPARENCY and COMMUNICATION

Recommendation #5 – Board members routinely participate in CSBA workshops hosted at MCOE.

Recommendation #6-8

The Ross School District prepares summaries of financial documents for presentation to their boards. CAFRs, Audits, and GASB valuations are available upon request, easily accessible on the District's website, and are presented routinely at board meetings which are open to general public. The District is looking into providing text-searchable financial documents.

NEGOTIATIONS TO REDUCE OPEB OBLIGATIONS

Recommendation #9 – The Ross School District continually utilizes cost containment strategies with the bargaining unit when negotiating compensation.