



June 6, 2019

The Honorable Judge Paul Haakenson
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Pat Randolph, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

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Dear Judge Haakenson and Foreperson Randolph:

Please find here the responses from the Kentfield School District to Recommendations 1, 2, 9, 10 and 11 as requested by the 2018-2019 Marin Civil Grand Jury Report entitled School Resource Officers Revisited, released on May 23, 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1: SRO programs in Marin County should be retained or expanded where they now exist. SRO programs should be established to cover those school districts where they do not exist.

Kentfield School District's Response to R1:

The recommendation has been implemented.

Our district is partnered with the Marin County Sheriff's office to provide our two schools with access to a School Resource Officer. We are satisfied with this arrangement and expect it to continue.

R2: Municipalities, school districts, and law enforcement agencies in Marin County should make SRO programs a high budgetary priority.

Kentfield School District's Response to R2:

The recommendation will not be implemented.

The Kentfield School District takes the safety and security of our students and staff very seriously. We feel that the relationship we have with the Sheriff's office and our SRO meets our schools' needs. We are grateful for the service and for currently having it at no cost. If the need arose to chip in funding, our School Board would have to determine where a School Resource Office ranked in the myriad priorities demanding a piece of shrinking resources.

R9: School districts should take the lead in working with their city councils and law enforcement agencies to employ and maintain a sufficient number of SROs.

Kentfield School District's Response to R9:

This recommendation has been implemented.

While it is unknown how the SRO assigned to our schools came to us - whether through the lead of the school district or the Sheriff's office - we feel that her availability and presence on our campuses is sufficient.

R10: School districts and municipalities should explore funding sources such as grants, bond issues, special taxes, and other sources.

Kentfield School District's Response to R10:

This recommendation is being implemented.

In partnership with the Marin County Office of Education, the Kentfield School District is open to participating in countywide efforts to secure funding for SROs, should the Sheriff's Office need help maintaining the program. We have not needed to seek out funding sources to date.

R11: School districts and municipalities should consider sharing the costs and services of SRO programs.

Kentfield School District's Response to R11:

This recommendation will not be implemented.

School district budgets are under unprecedented constraints and challenges, and all indications point to an imminent economic slow-down, if not a recession. Adding personnel to our existing budget in the form of an SRO would require something else to be cut. These are decisions that cannot be hypothesized about. We would need to consider them one at a time as they come up. The Kentfield School District can be counted on to work collaboratively with districts and the Marin County Office of Education to identify as-yet-untapped funding sources to ensure the sustainability of the SRO program.

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

Sincerely,



Heather McPhail Sridharan
Kentfield School District
Board of Trustees President



Liz Schott
Kentfield School District
Superintendent