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MARIN COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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July 9, 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

Dear Judge Haakenson and Foreperson Randolph,

Attached please find the response requested by the 2018-19 Marin County Civil Grand Jury from the Marin County Superintendent of Schools/Marin County Board of Education to the recommendations (R2, R9, R10, R11) from the report *School Resource Officers Revisited*. We are thankful to the Grand Jury for bringing the issue of school safety to the forefront, as it is a high priority for all of our schools.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our public schools and community at large. Your encouragement to take action will assist in continuing the priority on school safety that parents and the community rightfully expect and demand.

Sincerely,

CLAIRETTE C. WILSON, President  
Marin County Board of Education

MARY JANE BURKE,  
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: School Resource Officers Revisited

Report Date: June 20, 2019

Agenda Date: July 9, 2019

Response by: Clairette C. Wilson & Mary Jane Burke

Title: President, Marin County Board of Education  
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: Please see attached.
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: Clairette C. Wilson  
Clairette C. Wilson, President  
Marin County Board of Education

Signed: MJB  
Mary Jane Burke,  
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

Number of pages attached 20

**Responses to the 2018-2019 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report**  
**School Resource Officers Revisited**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

**Response:**

This recommendation is being implemented.

School Resource Officer (SRO) services for the schools of the Marin County Office of Education are funded by the police agencies that serve our schools. The City of San Rafael / San Rafael Police Department have designated funding to support school safety and security at Marin's Community School and Phoenix Academy. The City of Novato / Novato Police Department provide SRO services at Compass Academy, and the Marin County Sheriff provides SRO services for our programs at Walker Creek Ranch.

Countywide, school districts place a very high priority on school safety and School Resource Officers. Districts without SROs have supportive and very responsive communication with their local law enforcement jurisdictions. In addition, solid ties between schools and law enforcement are encouraged and strengthened through the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership.

As additional grant opportunities become available, schools, municipalities and law enforcement agencies will work together whenever possible to compete for, and acquire, new funding.

**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 SRO's.**

**Response:**

This recommendation requires further analysis.

We currently have SRO support for all MCOE schools. We work closely with law enforcement partners to best utilize the resources.

Countywide, we will continue our work with school districts and law enforcement partners to prioritize effective communications and collaboration related to school security including seeking additional funding for SRO and law enforcement services.

An update will be provided by November 23, 2019.

**Responses to the 2018-2019 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report**  
**School Resource Officers Revisited**

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

**Response:**

This recommendation requires further analysis.

We concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to partner with other agencies to find additional resources for SRO funding including through United States Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Justice and other potential funders in the areas of school safety and violence prevention, threat assessments, and substance abuse education and prevention.

An update will be provided by November 23, 2019.

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

**Response:**

This recommendation requires further analysis.

The safety, health and well-being of our students and staff is a foremost priority for our district and we are always willing to work with our local partners to support that priority. Currently, SRO services are provided to MCOE schools by the San Rafael Police Department, Novato Police Department and the Marin County Sheriff. Budget constraints would make committing funds to a new SRO program a challenge at this time unless additional funds are acquired for that purpose. However, we support working with school districts and law enforcement partners countywide to explore the potential for new funding.

An update will be provided by November 23, 2019.