





# TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 605 - Larkspur, CA 94977 - (415) 945-1000 - Fax (415) 945-1026 - [www.tamdistrict.org](http://www.tamdistrict.org)  
*Redwood, San Andreas, Sir Francis Drake, Tamalpais and Tamiscal High Schools*

January 12, 2021

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

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

Re: Response to Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report: *Reading, Writing, and Therapy: Mental Health Challenges in Our Schools.*

Dear Judge Sweet and Foreperson Dilworth:

Please find, attached to this letter, the Tamalpais Union High School District response to the findings and recommendations of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's October 2020 report, entitled, ***Reading, Writing, and Therapy: Mental Health Challenges in Our Schools***. We thank the Grand Jury for bringing this topic to light. Too often, the importance of student mental health is not understood and the findings and recommendations contained in this report are an excellent, informative step toward broadening that collective understanding.

We would like to respectfully accept the Grand Jury's acknowledgement that TUHSD has been a county leader in student mental health and demonstrated creativity and flexibility during COVID-19, with a concomitant pledge to continuous improvement. Our community deeply values student mental health and wellbeing and we do our utmost to honor that belief by employing an excellent team of mental health professionals to carry out that work, hand-in-hand with our certificated and classified staff and school leaders.

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to the welfare and wellbeing of our community.

Sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ms. Leslie Harlander  
President, TUHSD Board of Trustees

  
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Dr. Tara Taupier  
Superintendent, TUHSD

Cc: Ms. Mary Jane Burke  
Superintendent  
Marin County Office of Education

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## FINDINGS

Finding #	Finding	TUHSD Response
F1	Many mental health issues result from social and cultural factors that lie outside the schools, but affect the ability of students to learn and schools to teach. This is a complex problem that the community must help address.	<u>Agree</u> , assuming the factual statements set forth in the Grand Jury's report are accurate.
F2	Strategy 6 of the Marin County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan, which includes a promise of support by the county and designates the Marin Schools Wellness Collaborative with responsibility for leading its implementation, presents an especially appropriate opportunity for addressing mental health needs.	<u>Agree</u> , assuming the factual statements set forth in the Grand Jury's report are accurate.
F3	To help provide therapeutic counselors at affordable costs, most districts need assistance from licensed therapists who have the time and skills to recruit, train, and supervise interns from local graduate school programs.	<u>Agree</u> , assuming the factual statements set forth in the Grand Jury's report are accurate.
F4	Most districts need staffing help to identify, arrange, and maintain relationships with community mental health resources.	<u>Agree</u> , assuming the factual statements set forth in the Grand Jury's report are accurate.
F5	The Grand Jury recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely strained resources at all levels of government. However, the mental health concerns for students will remain. It is appropriate to expand teacher and staff training and parent education even while funding is sought for more costly programs.	<u>Agree</u> , assuming the factual statements set forth in the Grand Jury's report are accurate.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Rec #	Recommendation	TUHSD Response
		The Grand Jury did not direct TUHSD to respond to any report recommendations