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

Deborah Haase,
Foreperson Marin County
Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive,
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Chou and Foreperson Haase,

Attached please find the response requested by the 2021-2022 Marin County Civil Grand Jury from the **Mill Valley School District Board** to recommendations (R1-R2) and findings (F1-F8) from the **Marin Schools: A Prescription for COVID Recovery** report.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our public schools and the health and wellness of our county's young people.

Sincerely,

Todd May,
Mill Valley School District Board,
President

Dr. Kimberly Berman,
Mill Valley School District,
Superintendent

**Mill Valley School District
Response to Grand Jury Report**

Report Title:	Marin Schools: A Prescription for COVID Recovery
Respondent/Agency: Name	Mill Valley School District
Name: Title	President, Todd May, Mill Valley School District Board
Name: Title	Superintendent, Dr. Kimberly Berman

Findings: —

I (we) agree with the findings numbered	F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8
I (we) <i>partially</i> disagree partially with the findings numbered:	F3, F4
I (we) <i>wholly</i> disagree partially with the findings numbered:	

Recommendations:

- Recommendations numbered R-2 have been implemented
- Recommendations numbered R1 have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

Date: 6/9/22 Signed: Kimberly Berman

Number of pages attached: 5

Mill Valley School District
Responses to the 2021-2022 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report
Marin Schools: A Prescription for COVID Recovery

Recommendations:

R1:	By August 1, 2022 the Marin County Superintendent of Schools and all Marin public school districts should convene a countywide Lost Learning Task Force to rapidly develop lost learning recovery models that are available for implementation by all of Marin's public school districts
Response:	<p>This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.</p> <p>There are currently multiple existing groups and structures in place that have been in place before the pandemic and have developed and implemented plans for learning loss mitigation to some degree throughout the pandemic, with the clear understanding that remote learning is not effective or accessible for many students. The Marin County Superintendent of Schools convenes a monthly meeting of Marin County School District Superintendents to coordinate efforts and share best practices for supporting student learning and success. The frequency of these meetings was increased to weekly through a majority of the pandemic, including regular participation of the Marin County Public Health Office and/or Deputy Public Health Officer. A central priority of the Superintendents group through the past two years is to share best practices to address learning loss, and to implement robust student and staff mental health and wellness supports. All Marin County school districts applied for and were recipients of Learning Loss Mitigation Funding (LLMF) to support pupil academic achievement and mitigate learning loss related to COVID-19 school closures. As such all school districts were required to create learning continuity and attendance plans, which have been adopted and submitted to the California Department of Education.</p> <p>In addition to monthly Superintendents meetings, other countywide groups that meet on a regular basis with representatives from all school districts who have been addressing learning loss mitigation through the pandemic include the Innovative Learning Team (ILT), District Business Officials (DBOs), Elementary and Middle School Principals Networks, and the Marin County Schools Wellness Collaborative.</p> <p>For the purposes of this recommendation the ILT, under the leadership of the Marin County Office of Education, will serve as the <i>Lost Learning Task Force</i>, and will agendize learning loss mitigation to rapidly develop lost learning recovery models that are available for implementation by all of Marin's public school districts, and provide updates on best practices to the Superintendents.</p>

R2:	By August 1, 2022 the Marin County Superintendent of Schools and all Marin public school districts should also call on the Lost Learning Task Force, as a second but vital priority, to develop and recommend protocols and policies for minimizing the length of emergency school closures during future disruptions.
Response:	This recommendation has been implemented.

Mill Valley School District
Responses for the 2021-2022 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report
Marin Schools: A Prescription for COVID Recovery

Findings:

F1:	Excellent collaboration between Marin County Public Health officers and Marin's public school administrators during the COVID-19 pandemic produced science-based and demonstrably workable guidelines for reopening Marin County's public schools safely early in the 2020-21 school year.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We agree with the finding.
F2:	Since experts agree that in-person classroom instruction is best for students, putting students first by keeping schools open as much as possible should be an imperative for all of Marin's educators
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We agree with the finding.
F3:	Because labor negotiations over resuming in-person classroom instruction added to the complexity and delays in public school reopenings, Marin's public school districts would benefit by developing standard practices and models for resolving staff concerns.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We <i>partially</i> disagree with the finding. <p>It is true that labor negotiations added to the complexity and delays in public school reopenings, for good reason. We disagree that standard practices and models should be developed for resolving staff concerns. The structure and nature of labor units, negotiations, and collective bargaining agreements appropriately are designed to address a wide variety of individualized and localized concerns and circumstances that must be addressed to reach agreement in each respective district.</p> <p>Marin County public school teachers and school staff (labor) should be commended for their efforts to help Marin County public schools to be among the first in the state to return to and sustain in person classroom instruction.</p> <p>As Mill Valley School District opened ahead of other districts, we would not have wanted to be delayed by the slowest who decided to return. At the same time, we would welcome any revision to our practices that would have meant an early return to learn.</p>
F4:	Marin's Public schools would benefit from studying the private and public schools that demonstrated an ability to fully reopen early in the 2020-21 school year while complying with Marin's Public Health requirements.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We <i>partially</i> disagree with the finding. <p>While it is beneficial to review best practices and resources that were</p>

	<p>developed by schools during the pandemic, we disagree that additional study is needed regarding how private and some public schools were able to reopen early in the 2020-21 school year. Private and public schools worked collaboratively and directly with Public Health to develop the 30-point plan that allowed Marin schools to reopen complying with Marin's Public Health requirements, and to continually adjust to conditions and changing guidance to remain open during the biggest surges of COVID-19 in our community.</p>
F5:	<p>As a consequence of significant differences in the amount of in-person instruction time offered by Marin County's 18 public school districts during the 2020-21 school year, Marin's public school students experienced wide disparities in educational instruction.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree with the finding.
F6:	<p>A shortage of in-person instruction during the 2020-21 school year slowed measurable learning progress for many Marin public school students, resulting in deficits that should be addressed over the long-term with a concerted recovery program.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree with the finding.
F7:	<p>Slow in-person school reopenings undermined confidence in public schools and contributed to an enrollment decline, potentially weakening long-term financial support for Marin's districts that rely on attendance for state funding.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree with the finding. <p>Mill Valley School District is not funded through daily attendance so our sole interest is in ensuring that our public school offers the highest level of academic rigor and expectations for learning.</p>
F8:	<p>The Marin County Superintendent of Schools and Office of Education are best positioned to take a leadership role in enabling school districts to coordinate and implement a focused pandemic recovery plan that addresses students' academic, social, and emotional needs.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We agree with the finding.