SAN RAFAEL CITY SCHOOLS
310 NOVA ALBION WAY, SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
JIM HOGEBOOM
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San Rafael City Schools
Response to Grand Jury Report

Report Title:	Marin Schools: A Prescription for COVID Recovery
Respondent / Agency Name:	San Rafael City Schools Board of Education
Name: Title:	Linda M. Jackson President, San Rafael City Schools Board of Education
Name: Title:	Lucia Martel-Dow Vice President, San Rafael City Schools Board of Education
Name: Title:	Jim Hogeboom Superintendent, San Rafael City Schools

Findings:

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

(Attached is a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

Recommendations:

- Recommendations numbered **R-2** have been implemented.
  (Attach) a summary describing the implemented actions)
- Recommendations numbered **R-1** have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
  (Attach a timeframe for implementation)
- Recommendations numbered **N/A** 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 **N/A** will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
  (Attach an explanation.)

Date: 6/13/22 Signed: James R Hogeboom

Number of pages attached: 8 (including cover sheet)

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June 13, 2022

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, Room #275
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 San Rafael City Schools (SRCS) Board of Education 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,

Lucia Martel Dow
Lucia Martel Dow (Jul 25, 2022 08:53 PDT)

Lucia Martel-Dow
Vice President, Board of Education

James R Hogeboom
James R Hogeboom (Jul 25, 2022 11:29 PDT)

Jim Hogeboom
Superintendent

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

Recommendation:

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:	**This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.** SRCS currently has multiple existing groups and structures that have been in place before the pandemic and has developed and implemented plans for learning loss mitigation to some degree throughout the pandemic, with the clear understanding that remote learning was not effective or accessible for many of our students. Along with other Marin superintendents, our SRCS superintendent actively participated in monthly meetings convened by the Marin County Superintendent of Schools 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-plus years has been to share best practices to address learning loss, and to implement robust student and staff mental health and wellness supports. Relatedly, SRCS applied for and was a recipient of Learning Loss Mitigation Funding (LLMF) to support pupil academic achievement and mitigate learning loss related to COVID-19 school closures. With this, SRCS created a learning continuity and attendance plan, which has been adopted by our Board of Education and submitted to the California Department of Education. These plans are available for viewing under the SRCS' Board of Education's public meeting agenda on Sept. 29, 2020. Furthermore, SRCS has outlined learning loss plans in our 2021 ESSER III Expenditure Plan; 2021 Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant Plan; 2021 LCAP Mid-Year Report; 2021 Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity Plan; and 2022 Supplement to Annual Update for 2021-22 LCAP, all of which are available for viewing on our SRCS Board of Education's public meeting agendas.

	In addition, SRCS has participated in other countywide groups that meet on a regular basis regarding 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. For the purposes of this recommendation the ILT, under the leadership of the Marin County Office of Education, will serve as the *Lost Learning Task Force,* 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, including SRCS, and provide updates on best practices to the Superintendents. SRCS will continue to participate in this group.

Recommendation:

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.** SRCS has implemented this recommendation, although not in the name of a *Lost Learning Task Force.* This work is ongoing. Prior to COVID, there was strong consensus at SRCS that continuity of school operations and in-person learning is a critical priority. In partnership with the Marin County Office of Education, tools to support this priority through recent experiences with wildfire, air quality and winter storms have been developed in collaboration with Marin County Public Health and the Office of Emergency Services. Tools that SRCS uses include an air quality chart that identifies appropriate indoor and outdoor activities at school to support health and safety depending on changing air quality indicators; systems of communication and planning for potential closures; and many districts taking the step of adding additional potential instructional days (similar to snow days) in the event of a closure. When the first shelter in place and suspension of classroom activity in SRCS was ordered in the spring of 2020, immediate steps were taken to benefit SRCS students, in conjunction with Public Health, to develop protocols and procedures for a safe return to site based classroom instruction, resulting in the development of the Marin County School Guidelines (30 Point Plan) first issued

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	June 18, 2020. With the fundamental goal of keeping students in site based classroom instruction these guidelines have been revised and updated 11 times through May 3, 2022, including an update to a 32 Point Plan on August 18, 2021, and more recently an update to the Marin County SMARTER Schools Plan on March 24, 2022. SRCS has used all of these iterations as foundational to our work. Public Health is currently working with all Marin County schools, including SRCS, in planning for the 2022-23 school year including the development of a COVID mitigation strategies chart, similar to the air quality chart, to help schools continue implement best practices and procedures aligned with changing COVID-19 transmission levels and risks due to future variants and uncertainties, with the central and agreed upon priority of keeping students in site based classroom instructions. This work is ongoing.

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Finding

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.
	I (we) agree with the finding.

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.
	I (we) agree with the finding.

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.
	I (we) *partially* disagree with the finding. It is true that labor negotiations added to the complexity and delays in public school re-openings for SRCS, and we believe it is for good reason. We disagree that standard practices and models should be developed for resolving staff concerns. The structure and nature of our multiple SRCS 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 collaboration with our SRCS labor partners. SRCS teachers and school staff, along with others throughout Marin, 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.

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Finding

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.
	I (we) *partially* disagree with the finding. While it is beneficial to review best practices and resources that were developed by many 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. SRCS, and other Marin public schools as well as private 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.

Finding

F5	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.
	I (we) agree with the finding.

Finding

F6	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.
	I (we) agree with the finding.

Finding

F7	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.
	I (we) agree with the finding.

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Finding

F8	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.
	I (we) agree with the finding.

Approval of District Response to 2021-2022 Marin County Grand Jury Report

Final Audit Report 2022-07-25

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