

# Summerville Union High School District

17555 Tuolumne Road, Tuolumne, CA 95379 (209) 928-3498  
FAX (209) 928-1321

**Summerville High School Campus:** (209) 928-4228  
FAX: (209) 928-1422



**Superintendent** Robert N. Griffith

**Board of Education** \* Cheri Farrell \* Spring Maddox \* Randy Richter \* Dennis Spisak \* Bret Taylor

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SEP 01 2016

Superior Court of California  
County of Tuolumne

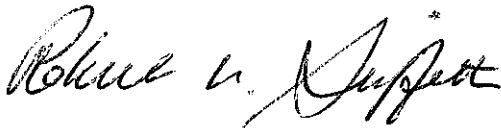
By: Uones Clerk

August 12, 2016

Dear Honorable Judge Donald Segerstrom 

I would like to thank the membership of the 2015-2016 Tuolumne County Grand Jury for the report dated June 30, 2016, which identified the areas of the Brown Act and School Reorganization as applicable topics of review for Summerville Union High School District. I have read the report, the SUHSD Board has reviewed the report, and we are prepared to respond to the findings and recommendations.

Most sincerely,



Robert N. Griffith, Superintendent

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## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: School Reorganization Committee Report

Report Date: June 30, 2016

Response by: Robert N. Griffith Title: Summerville Union High School District Superintendent

### FINDINGS

1. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F2
2. I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F1  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations numbered      R1 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implementation actions.)
2. Recommendations numbered                      have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
3. Recommendations numbered      R2 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 the publication of the Grand Jury report.)
4. Recommendations numbered                      will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8-12-16

Signed: Robert N. Griffith

Robert N. Griffith, Superintendent

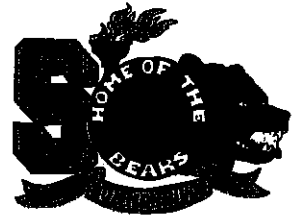
Number of pages attached: 2

Serving the communities of: Cold Springs, Long Barn, Mi-Wuk Village, Pinecrest, Sierra Village  
Strawberry, Sugar Pine, Tuolumne, Twain Harte

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Comments and responses to findings and recommendations.

**Findings #1.** Report: "There exists a redundancy in purchasing, bus fleet management and other management scenarios that would benefit from further transparency. Participation in a JPA appears to have potential for greater efficiencies and cost savings."

**Response. Disagree partially.** Tuolumne County possesses an education organizational structure that maximizes on the strengths and minimizes the weaknesses of that structure. Eleven independent districts provide the local educational control touted by the governor; the structure allows for quick response to needs identified at the local level; provides for programs and emphasis in curriculum, activities, sports, field trips and local traditions that make each school community unique; and finally provides the elected officials who take a strong interest in their local community resource: the school.

The Tuolumne Superintendent of Schools office provides a strong centralized support that coordinates student learning initiatives while saving the districts significant finances by centralized purchasing and coordination. These include:

- Technology purchasing agreements
- Technology support
- County SELPA Board run by a coordinated effort between each district and the county office
- School meal purchase agreements
- Energy purchase agreements
- JPA: Each school district in Tuolumne County is a member of the Tuolumne JPA and receives the benefit of the group pricing for insurance, liability and workers compensation and training.
- Transportation services centralized through Sonora Union High School District for our most challenging transportation circumstances: SELPA
- Shared administrative service for instruction, staff development, and LCAP compliance
- Shared business service support
- Shared personnel, credential analysis, and human resource support and coordination
- Regularly scheduled and coordinated county wide leadership summit meetings with the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools that continually provides the norming of best practices in instruction, school leadership, and cost saving measures throughout all eleven districts.

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**Many of California's 58 county offices of education organizations throughout the state provide marginal support to their county districts. Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office, however, is a model of a strong county office that brings all eleven districts together, coordinates services and educational compliance, allows for the efficient use of resources, and provides a high level of support for each local district. It is a rare combination of a robust central office support and all the benefits of local control.**

**Findings #2. Report:** "The high level of inter-district transfer requests creates administrative and enrollment issues for the districts."

**Response:** We agree. Tuolumne County possesses many options for parents to choose from when selecting a school for their children, whether those be local community schools, charter schools, public school choice through inter-district requests, or private schools. All these choices create a positive pressure for our schools to maintain high standards, positive parent relations, and successful student outcomes. It is our position that this is a larger issue than inter-district requests, but one that administrators deal with when projecting student enrollment and maintaining or expanding programs.

**Recommendation #1. Report:** "Joint Powers Authority."

**Response:** Has been implemented. Summerville Union High School District is a member of The Tuolumne JPA, operated by the Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools, which administers property, liability and worker's compensation insurance programs for member school districts in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne.

**Recommendation #2. Report:** "The Grand Jury recommends that an independent and definitive study of the economic benefits and costs of school district reorganization be undertaken. The results of this study, and the section of the California Education Code pertaining to school district consolidation, should be actively made available to all Tuolumne County taxpayers and elected officials. Grants from appropriate public or private agencies should be pursued to pay for this study."

**Response:** Requires further analysis. Summerville Union High School District would be pleased to cooperate with an economic study of the benefits and costs of school district reorganization, and to review those findings for further analysis when completed.

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## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Brown Act Committee Report

Report Date: June 30, 2016

Response by: Robert Griffith Title: Summerville Union High School District Superintendent

### FINDINGS

3. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F4 and F5

**F4** "The District agrees that there has been lodged a community concern regarding the District's Brown Act Compliance."

**F5** "The District agrees that there was an expressed concern regarding the ease of use of the District website."

4. I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons.)*

### RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Recommendations numbered R1, R2, and R5 have been implemented.

*(Attach a summary describing the implementation actions.)*

6. Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

*(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)*

7. 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 the publication of the Grand Jury report.)*

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8. Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

## Recommendations and response summary for SUHSD.

**R1. The District has provided a "Brown Act" information link on the District web site to provide information on the Brown Act to local citizens. The District has also included on the District web site a link to the Districts "uniform complaint procedures."**

**R2. The District has provided a link on the District web site to "The First Amendment Coalition" for information on Brown Act instructions and information.**

**R5. The District has made changes to the ease of use of the District web site and access to board agendas and information.**

Date: August 12, 2016

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Griffith", is written over a horizontal line.

Robert N. Griffith, Superintendent