



Jamestown School District

Judge of the Superior Court
Honorable Donald Segerstrom
41 W. Yaney Avenue
Sonora, CA 95370

August 19, 2016

Dear Honorable Judge Donald Segerstrom:

(Handwritten initials)

Jamestown School District would like to thank the 2015-2016 Tuolumne County Grand Jury for the report dated July 12, 2016 which investigated several areas related to education. The Board of Trustees has reviewed the report and offers the response of the Jamestown School District, as requested by the Grand Jury.

Recommendation R1: "A cost benefit analysis of opportunities for more JPA efforts should be undertaken by every school district, and greater purchasing by the JPA should be implemented where savings are apparent."

The Jamestown School District agrees with this recommendation, which has already been implemented. We will continue to work in collaboration with other school districts to expand opportunities to share common services that result in a savings to each district. Currently, districts share services such as purchasing, information technology, instructional support, professional development, transportation and bus fleet management, the JPA insurance cooperative, and shared administrative support, which has resulted in substantial savings to district budgets. The most recent example of how this recommendation has already been implemented is that school districts shared the cost of professional development to train teachers in the new English Language Arts textbook adoption on August 3rd and 4th, 2016. Districts continually work for ways to be efficient and to be excellent stewards of taxpayer money.

Recommendation R2: "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."

The Jamestown School District neither agrees or disagrees with this recommendation. This recommendation has been implemented multiple times over the last 30 years, the latest study occurring in 2000, when the Sonora Area Foundation hired a school finance consulting agency, School Services of California, Inc., to conduct a study about how school districts might better

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By: *(Signature)* Clerk

work together to improve education in Tuolumne County. In the opinion of the consultants, "unionizing and/or unifying school districts makes a lot of sense from a practical standpoint." However, in weighing the disadvantages to unionizing and unifying, the consultants further noted "...according to the majority of governing board members, administrators, teachers, classified staff, and parents that we interviewed, there are concerns that the system replacing the existing system will not be better and may result in loss of identity, loss of access, creation of bureaucracies, reallocation of resources, elimination of programs, etc." The Jamestown School District does not oppose another study, if the community is in need of more information regarding school unionization or unification, however, the District would not use taxpayer resources to fund a study.

The Jamestown School District wishes to thank the Grand Jury for their diligent work and dedication in fulfilling their mission of service to the Court and to the citizens of Tuolumne County. Please do not hesitate to contact me, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Brenda J. Chapman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr. Brenda J. Chapman
Superintendent/Secretary to the Board of Trustees