



Established 1865

SOULSBYVILLE SCHOOL
20300 Soulsbyville Road
Soulsbyville, California 95372
(209) 532-1419
(209) 532-4371 District fax
(209) 533-2922 School fax

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Marc Christie
Kate Hack
Denise Houghton
James Evans
Heather Spangler

SUPERINTENDENT / PRINCIPAL
Jeff Winfield

FILED

SEP 01 2016

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne
By: Wines Clerk

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

August 24, 2016

Dear Honorable Judge Donald Segerstrom:

Soulsbyville School District would like to thank the 2015-2016 Tuolumne County Grand Jury for their report dated July 2016 which investigated several areas related to education. Our School Board has reviewed the report and submits this response as requested by the Grand Jury.

As to 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 Soulsbyville School District agrees with this recommendation and finds that efforts to implement are continuous. We work collaboratively with other school districts to share common services and other opportunities that do reflect savings to each district. Services such as purchasing, information technology, instructional support, professional development, transportation and bus fleet management, the JPA insurance cooperative, and shared administrative support are ongoing. Our district will continue to explore and implement ways to be efficient and good stewards of taxpayer money.

As to 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 Soulsbyville 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. Our district does not oppose another study, if the community is in need of more information regarding school reorganization, however, the District would not use taxpayer resources to fund a study.

Thank you to the Grand Jury for their dedication and hard work fulfilling their mission of service to the Court and to the citizens of Tuolumne County.

Sincerely,

Jeff Winfield
Superintendent/Secretary to the Board of Trustees