

CURTIS
REEK
SCHOOL DISTRICT
18755 Standard Road
Sonora, California 95370
(209) 533-1083 • FAX (209) 532-6080

FILED

SEP 06 2016

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne
By: [Signature] Clerk

**Superintendent/
Principal**

Sharon Johnson

Principal

Terri Bell

Board of Trustees

*Mike Holland
Melissa Knobloch
Dan Parks
David Rowan
Nick Stuart*

**Curtis Creek School
District**

*18755 Standard Rd.
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-1428
FAX (209) 588-9593*

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

August 20, 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 July 12, 2016. I have reviewed the report and wish to send a response, as requested by the Grand Jury, on items related to the findings and recommendations of the Reorganization Committee.

R1 (resulting from F1)

School Districts in Tuolumne County already share many services when feasible. Being in this County for only two years, I see great collaboration between the districts. The Superintendents meet often, share ideas and information. I've worked all over California, from Orange CO to Shasta CO, and I see the Tuolumne county school districts collaborating like a large district does – but with better, more personal communication. Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools (TCSOS) already shares services like purchasing, professional development, technology support, transportation, and bus fleet services. Some details as follows:

Sharing of Staff:

The school districts in Tuolumne CO, per good communication and collaboration of the Leadership, share staff when possible for special programs. Our Music teacher is only PT, she works in other County schools as well. Same for our Band teacher, she too, works here only PT and works in other schools, as well. Three Tuolumne county districts (led by TCSOS) just ended a three year JOINT grant, which provided Counseling services.

Purchasing Cooperatives:

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All of our districts receive lower pricing through Apple, Dell, Office Depot, and Staples. Our food supplier, Sysco, provides discounts for cafeteria supplies based on the total number of students in the County. All of the districts benefit from TCSOS's joint propane bidding giving districts the best price available. All districts already benefit from E-Rate which provides discounts on telecommunications, Internet, and internal connections.

Technology Cooperative:

All districts contract with the TCSOS for technology services, network security. This Technology Cooperative also makes available IT professional development for all staff in the county.

Tuolumne Joint Powers Authority (JPA):

This JPA administers property, liability and worker's compensation insurance programs for member school districts in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties. This gives these county schools the benefit of the group pricing for insurance, liability and worker's compensation and training.

Professional Development & Instructional Services Cooperative:

The TCSOS provides high quality professional development and saves districts from needing to send staff out of the area for quality training, and/or training required by the State.

Bus Cooperatives:

TCSOS contracts with Sonora High School District to manage the county-wide bus transportation of special education students who may be in need of transportation to a particular program. Also, our district, without a bus maintenance/repair shop, contracts with Sonora High School District for services needed.

Administrative Services:

Administrative services at CCSD are already at a minimum. There is only an equivalent of 1.0 Administrator to run the school, and a .5 Superintendent. To make the most efficient and prudent decisions for a school site and district, I feel the Leadership must be well-versed in the school site and in the community. An area to explore more cooperative services could be the TCSOS offering the districts cooperative (legal/professional) support for negotiations.

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Regarding F2: I disagree that, "The high level of inter-district transfer requests creates administrative and enrollment issues for the districts." Schools in CA have Open Enrollment unless they are impacted. In Open Enrollment, students, even in large districts, can attend any school as long as they are not impacted. Parents are fond of their schools of choice whether they are choosing from various schools in the same district or choosing various schools in neighboring districts. Transfer requests, "inter" or "intra" will occur regardless.

R2 (Resulting from F2)

I understand, from talking to folks in the community, that studies have been done before (2000, Sonora Area Foundation & School Services of CA). Findings from that study concluded, "...replacing the existing system will not be better and may result in loss of identity, loss of access, creation of bureaucracies, reallocation of resources, eliminations of programs, ...". After I read that report, it appears Tuolumne CO has come a long way in creating Cooperatives and JPAs, and I imagine will continue to look for cost-saving measures. The districts need to continue to focus on the most efficient way to BEST educate our students. Good communication and collaboration is the key to finding ways to best educate our students, and Tuolumne CO district leadership has some of the best communication I've seen in the CA education system. Working in smaller districts, to districts as large as Santa Ana Unified (7th largest district in CA), I see efficiency and communication worsen as the district size increases.

I've worked at the CA Department of Education for four years and saw first-hand the bureaucracy involved with trying to get funding to school districts. It was the most "eye opening" four years I've spent in the education field. The funding from the State and Federal levels is not adequate to prepare our students to be globally competitive. Our voices and efforts need to be heard, and felt, at the State and Federal level to please adequately fund our schools.

Meanwhile, we all will continue to collaborate and communicate with each other to maximize the resources we have. CCSD carefully and thoughtfully allocates the valuable funds we do have to continue to attract qualified staff, keep smaller class sizes, obtain the new textbook adoptions, and to maintain our music and band programs (we already share staff here among districts). CCSD's community sentiment is that they have a say in what goes on in the district and they know who they can go to with questions or suggestions. Therefore, to spend funds on a survey at this time I

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feel is not reasonable or fiscally responsible. CCSD already is pursuing grants for student programs and counseling services.

Sincerely,



Sharon Johnson

Superintendent/Principal, Curtis Creek School District

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report

Report Date: 8/20/2016

Response by: S. Johnson Title: Superintendent/Principal

FINDINGS

1. I (we) agree with the findings numbered: _____
2. I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F1, F2
(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 _____ 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 R2 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: August 20, 2016

Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: 4