Carolyn E. Seaton, Ed.D.
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Orinda Union School District

8 Altarinda Road • Orinda • California 94563 • (925) 254-4901• FAX (925) 254-5261

September 11, 2020

By U.S. Mail & E-Mail: ctadmin@contracosta.courts.ca.gov

Contra Costa County Grand Jury
Attn: Foreperson
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report No. 2008

Dear Foreperson:

In response to your letter dated June 10, 2020, the Board of Trustees of the Orinda Union School District "District" provides this response to the following findings and recommendations in Grand Jury Report No. 2008- Do Our Public Schools Have Adequate Emergency Supplies?, as requested.

Findings:

Finding #1:

The California Education Code does not specify the type of supplies schools should maintain for emergencies.

Response to Finding #1:

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #2:

Each Contra Costa County school district determines its own emergency preparedness plans (based on California State Education Department guidelines), including the amount and type of emergency supplies to maintain at its schools.

Response to Finding #2:

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #3:

The Contra Costa County Office of Education posts on its website a recommended list (minimum standard list) of emergency supplies for school districts.

Response to Finding #3:

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #4:

Some Contra Costa County school districts did not demonstrate that they maintain supplies in conformity with the Contra Costa County Office of Education minimum standard list.

Response to Finding #4:

The District partially disagrees with the finding. The District has not verified whether other school districts maintain supplies in conformity with the County Office of Education's minimum standard list.

Finding #5:

Some Contra Costa County school districts fund purchasing and replenishment of emergency supplies through their annual budgets, but most school districts in Contra Costa County fund them through parent or community donations.

Response to Finding #5:

The District partially disagrees with the finding. The District is not aware of how other school districts in Contra Costa County fund the purchase of emergency supplies.

Finding #6:

Contra Costa County school districts can apply for federal, state, corporate, or non-profit organization grants to help pay the cost of acquiring and maintaining school emergency supplies.

Response to Finding #6:

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #7:

Each Contra Costa County school district has either a designated safety/ resource officer or a school administrator who fills the safety/ resource officer role.

Response to Finding #7:

The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #8:

There is no legal requirement that teachers renew CPR and First Aid certification training after teachers initially obtain their teaching credential.

Response to Finding #8:

The District agrees with the finding.

Recommendations: Orinda Union School District is required to respond to Recommendations 3, 4, and 5.

Recommendation #3:

The Contra Costa County school district boards should consider applying for federal, state, corporate, and non-profit organization grants to fund the acquisition of school emergency supplies, by June 30, 2021.

Response to Recommendation #3:

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The Orinda Union School District is currently focused on providing our students with the best possible distance learning program during the COVID-19 pandemic. After COVID-19 conditions improve, the District looks forward to seeking opportunities for grants to help ensure that each school maintains an adequate supply of school emergency supplies. We certainly hope to begin applying for these grants by June 30, 2021, but the timeline will be determined in large part by current COVID-19 conditions.

Recommendation #4:

Each Contra Costa County school district board should consider developing a plan to identify organizations that provide CPR and First Aid certification refresher training for district teachers, by December 31, 2020.

Response to Recommendation #4:

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Orinda Union School District has provided CPR and First Aid training for teachers and certificated staff through our partnership with the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD); however, we have a very limited number of professional development days and have had to focus this year's training on best practices for implementing distance learning. We look forward to offering CPR and First Aid staff development by MOFD personnel in the future, potentially during the 2021-2022 school year.

Recommendation #5:

Each Contra Costa County school district board should consider developing a plan to identify funding, if necessary, to provide CPR and First Aid certification refresher training for district teachers, by December 31, 2020.

Response to Recommendation #5:

This recommendation has been implemented. MOFD does not charge the Orinda Union School District for providing CPR and First Aid training to teachers and staff. There is a small fee to provide employees with a CPR/First Aid card to verify their completion of the training, but Orinda Union School District has been able to cover that nominal expense.

This completes the District's response. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Seaton, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools