



Bob Cone, Superintendent

September 8, 2004

The Honorable Terrence R. Boren
Marin County Superior Court
PO Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Betty J. Matea, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 303
San Rafael, CA 93903

Your Honor and Madam Foreperson:

Thank you for the work that you and your fellow Civil Grand Jury members did on behalf of the citizens of Marin County. We appreciate the time you spent learning about schools and the report that you produced. Our responses to your findings and recommendations are as follows.

Finding #1: We will continue to work with the Marin County Office of Education to provide relevant information in whatever form it is requested.

Finding #2: The Marin County Office of Education provides some administrative assistance to the Larkspur School District. However, our local administrators supply the vast majority of administrative help as required by the legal mandates that we must meet as an independent district.

Finding #3: We agree that unification could offer up to a 3 percent saving of our budget if we did not cooperate with MCOE and other districts in many areas. Currently we participate in cost-sharing activities, including the purchasing of classroom supplies, technology hardware and software, furniture, and various contracted services. This county-wide cooperation has proved to be an effective cost-cutting measure and the Larkspur School District will look for further savings by cooperating with other school districts and the MCOE.

Finding #4: We agree.

Recommendation #1: We agree.

Recommendation #2: We agree. This is something that we do on a regular basis

Recommendation #3: This is a regular part of our budget development and monitoring process.

Sincerely,

Bob Cone
Superintendent