

LINCOLN SCHOOL
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June 10, 2008

The Honorable Verna Adams
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988


Robert Robinson, Foreperson
Marin County Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Adams and Mr. Robinson,

Enclosed please find the Lincoln School District's response to the Grand Jury Report: *"Emergency Communications at Marin Schools: A Tale of Catastrophe"*.

Thank you for your ongoing support and thoughtfulness regarding public education for all students in Marin County.

Sincerely,



Luke McCann
Superintendent Designee
Lincoln School District

**RESPONSES FROM THE LINCOLN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD
TO THE FINDINGS (F) AND RECOMMENDATIONS (R)**

**OF
THE 2007-2008 MARIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT**

"Emergency Communications at Marin Schools: A Tale of Catastrophe"

FINDINGS

- F3. No public or private school in Marin is part of MERA.**

Response: We agree.

- F5. The present public school emergency radio communication system is about to go belly up, leaving the schools with no emergency radio communication capabilities.**

Response: Our school district has prepared an Emergency Plan which includes provisions for emergency communications. This structure is not affected by the public school emergency radio communications system. We do agree that the current countywide system used by district offices and the Marin County Office of Education is in need of upgrading, given the age of the equipment, etc.

- F9. Both the Red Cross and Department of Health & Human Services recognize the importance of the school sites as gathering places in times of emergency. Both have contracted with various school districts for their use in times of crisis.**

Response: We agree.

- F10: There is a belief that installing MERA radios now could instill a false sense of security in the schools, because in any major crisis the MERA system would be overwhelmed with any immediate help unlikely in spite of MERA.**

Response: We agree

- F11. An alternate plan to equip the schools with an emergency radio communications system that could be outside the MERA radio network is in an early stage of consideration.**

Response: Lincoln School District will work with local public safety and the Marin County Office of Education to best determine the equipment needed for emergency communications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. The Board of Supervisors, the Marin Emergency Radio Authority, the Disaster Council, the Marin County Office of Education, the Marin County Office of Emergency Services, the Marin County Department of Public Works, the Marin County Administrator's Office, the Marin County Department of Health & Human Services, the various public school districts and the private schools should immediately work together to fund and install the MERA system and its radios in all of the Marin's public and private schools.**

Response: The Lincoln School District will work with local public safety, Marin County Office of Education and all county agencies to find a way to activate an updated system.

- R2: In the event it is determined that MERA is not a feasible option for Marin's schools, an effective, alternative emergency radio communication network, independent of MERA, should be immediately modeled, funded and installed in Marin's public and private schools through the collective efforts of the entities identified in Recommendation (R1) above.**

Response: See the Response to R1.