To: Don Kawashima  
Foreperson  
2008-2009 Grand Jury  
191 North First Street,  
San Jose, California 95113  

Re: Who really benefits from education dollars?  

Finding 1  

We disagree. The Board of Trustees receives the same benefits as employees, maximum of $10,500 and 4 of 5 board members use these benefits. Travel and conference cost are for CSBA conference which is now eliminated from the budget as part of the reductions. There is no pension contribution.

Recommendation 1  

The Board of Trustees reviews the benefits as listed above.

Finding 2  

Disagree. The Superintendent receives ACSA dues and a 6 month buy-out. Full medical benefits are paid by the district. Superintendent receives a doctoral and masters stipend the same as certificated and classified.

Recommendation 2  

The board of trustees annually reviews the superintendent’s contract and for the past three years has not received any benefits other than the above.

Finding 3  

Disagree.  
The superintendent’s contract is not tied to districts academic improvement  

Recommendation 3  

The superintendent’s annual evaluation has 5 goals and student achievement is one of the goals but there is no compensation for achieved goals
Finding 4

Board of Trustees does not hire search firms and uses the community made up of staff, management and parents in searches of superintendents.

Recommendation 4

See above

Finding 5

Disagree
Board of Trustees has one counsel for negotiations and legal matters and one counsel for Special Education and established trusting relations with counsel for at least 10 years.

Recommendation 5

See above. The fees are lower than the county counsel.

Finding 6

Disagree
The superintendent salary is the lowest in the county and does not reflect high costs per student.

Recommendation 6

The Orchard community wants local control. Orchard has been in existence for 158 years in Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joseph A. Amelio, Superintendent
921 Fox Lane, San Jose, CA 95131

CC: Ken Riley, President
Board of Trustees