September 21, 2010

Honorable Jamie Jacobs-May  
Presiding Judge  
Santa Clara County Superior Court  
191 North First Street  
San Jose, California 95113

This letter represents the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District response to your letter of June 24, 2010 regarding the Achieving School District Efficiency Through Consolidation.

Finding 1:  
Education and financial benefits can be achieved by consolidation and unification of certain county school districts

Recommendation 1b  

Response:


We already have effective articulation among our five school districts. Communication, within and across districts and grade levels, is a priority for our superintendents, principals and staff.

The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District disagrees that there will be potential financial benefits achieved from consolidation and unification of the Lakeside Joint School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Los Gatos Union School District, Saratoga Union School District with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District. Specific financial details and logistics of implementing consolidation need to be carefully analyzed and studied. The financial data provided by the Santa Clara County Grand Jury report does not provide enough detail for the Loma Prieta Joint Union School District to concur with a finding that financial
savings of approximately 7% would be achieved through school district consolidation. Many of the potential savings areas would be offset by an increase in costs involved by creating a larger district geographically.

Smaller sized school districts provide better alignment with community values and interests in public schools. The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District has a history of managing its schools in a fiscally responsible manner in partnership with the staff, parents, and the community at large.

In conclusion, we believe that a decision to consolidate school districts is a matter for each school board and their local communities to initiate and determine. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, for the reasons listed above.

Sincerely,

Diane Matlock
Board President