

# EVERGREEN SCHOOL DISTRICT



September 1, 2009

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

## FILED

SEP 08 2009

DAVID H. YAMASAKI  
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk,  
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara  
BY D. ALDYCKI

Dear Honorable Jacobs-May,

The following is the Evergreen School District's response to the 2008-2009 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, Santa Clara County Schools, Who Really Benefits from Education Dollars? (Hint: It's Not the Students).

As Superintendent of Evergreen School District I find the title of your Civil Grand Jury Report, dated June 24, 2009, Who Really Benefits from Education Dollars? (Hint: It's Not the Students) to be professionally inappropriate.

Grand Jury Finding	Agree/ Disagree	District Explanation/Action
F1 Board of Trustees Approve overly generous benefits to themselves <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Fully paid health benefits</li><li>- Excessive Travel/ Conference costs</li><li>- Pension contributions</li></ul>	Disagree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Evergreen School District Board of Trustees receive the same benefits as ALL district employees – classified, certificated, and management.</li><li>- Three of the five Evergreen School District Board of Trustees have attended one overnight conference in the last two years. I would not deem this as excessive travel/conference cost.</li><li>- Evergreen School District Board of Trustees are not provided pension contributions for their Board services.</li></ul>
F2 Boards of Trustees are approving overly generous benefits to Superintendents and Chancellors	Disagree	The Board of Trustees and Superintendent will work to provide a salary and health benefits only contract.
F3 Superintendent salaries and increases appear to bear no relationship to the number of schools, students, and employees nor to district's academic improvement	Disagree	The Santa Clara County Office of Education provided the Evergreen School District Board of Trustees with comparable salaries from which the Board of Trustees established the Superintendent's salary compensation. Evergreen School District has 18 of 18 California Distinguished Schools, 11 National Blue Ribbon Schools, 3 Title I Academic Achieving Schools, and the current District API is 847.

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Superintendent: Clif Black  
Governing Board: Jeff Fischer  
Carolyn Clark  
Merrilee Claverie  
Sylvia Alvarez  
Vince Songcayawon

Grand Jury Finding	Agree/ Disagree	District Explanation/Action
F4 Boards of Trustees hire costly search firms to recruit successors	Disagree	Evergreen School District Board of Trustees has never utilized a search firm for conducting a search for a superintendent.
F5 Boards of Trustees approve the hiring of multiple private attorneys	Agree	Evergreen School District Board of Trustees has approved annual agreements with multiple legal firms, including County Counsel, to provide the district the availability to legal services which best meet the needs of the district. Utilization of one legal firm does not necessarily provide the expert legal services required for all areas.
F6 High Superintendent costs per student is reflective of the district's having a small number of schools. Recommendation to consolidate districts.	Neutral	Los Angeles Unified is too large a district and one-school districts are too small.

Regards,



Clif Black,  
Superintendent

Cc: ESD Board of Trustees