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Henry Castaniada, Superintendent Corey Kidwell, Principal/CIO

FILED

September 21, 2010

SEP 30 2010

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

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

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

The Boards of Trustees should unify Lakeside Joint High School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Los Gatos Union School District and Saratoga Union School District with Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District.

Response:

Finding 1: The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District disagrees with the finding of educational benefit of consolidating with the Los Gatos Union School District, Saratoga Union School District, Lakeside School District and Los Gatos – Saratoga Joint Union High School District.

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

Board of Trustees:
Diane Matlock, President Paula Lacey, Vice-President
Rachelle Lopp, Member Mario Montana, Member Tricia Rasmussen, Member

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Matlock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Diane Matlock
Board President