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Craig A. Goldman

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Assistant Superintendent
Stephanie Totter

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September 24, 2010

Members of the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury
Santa Clara County Superior Court
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

FILED

SEP 27 2010

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

Dear Members of the Grand Jury:

Attached are responses from the Mountain View Whisman School District regarding the Grand Jury's Final Report, "Achieving School District Efficiency Through Consolidation."

Sincerely,

Craig A. Goldman
Superintendent

Mountain View Whisman School District
Response to Grand Jury Report
Achieving School District Efficiency Through Consolidation

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

Mountain View Whisman School District Response: We do not know whether such benefits can be achieved by consolidation and unification in other county school districts, but we disagree with this finding as it relates to the Mountain View Whisman School District.

Recommendation #1d: *The Boards of Trustees should unify Los Altos School District and Mountain View Whisman School District with Mountain View-Los Altos High School District.*

Mountain View Whisman School District Response: We disagree with this recommendation. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and is not reasonable for the following reasons:

- The financial analysis used to project savings is fundamentally flawed. We question the assumption that the efficiencies achieved for Twin Rivers will be equally achieved by the consolidation of the Los Altos School District, the Mountain View Whisman School District, and Mountain View-Los Altos High School District. For example, the methodology completely ignores the impact of consolidation upon classified and certificated salaries in the three districts. Based upon our analysis of the salary schedules in place for the Mountain View-Los Altos High School District, we project an increase in personnel costs of well over \$10 million, even after any reduction in personnel generated by consolidation. Consequently, consolidation would have a detrimental financial impact, even if it resulted in a reduction in staff and facilities.
- The increase in personnel costs would need to come at the expense of educational programs. Consequently, we believe that consolidation would have a detrimental program impact, including a devastating impact on programs such as class size, intervention, differentiation, extracurricular and enrichment activities, and professional development.
- We already have effective articulation and communication amongst our three school districts, and we do not believe the cost of consolidation would be justified by nominal improvement in these areas.
- We believe our school district's effectiveness is enhanced by a board of trustees that reflects the values of our local community. The recommendation ignores the communities, cultures, and economic conditions of the respective districts, as well as the value of a board of trustees that represents the diverse needs of its students, families, and community members.