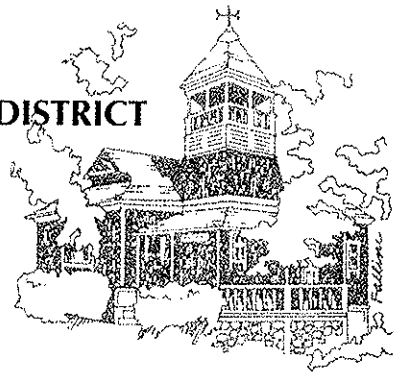


SANTA CLARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

20030 East Telegraph Road
Santa Paula, California 93060
(805) 525-4573



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OCT 01 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

September 28, 2010

Ventura County Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Avenue, L#3761
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Response from Santa Clara Elementary School District to Grand Jury Report: *The Half Billion Dollar Elephant in our Schools' Closets*

Members of the Ventura County Grand Jury:

Thank you for preparing the Ventura County 2009/2010 Grand Jury Report title *The Half Billion Dollar Elephant in Our Schools' Closets*. As required by the Grand Jury, following are the responses to the findings and recommendations included in the report on behalf of Santa Clara Elementary School District:

Finding F-16. Santa Clara Elementary School District:

- District concurs with the Grand Jury Report that the budget for the General Fund as of the 2009/2010 Adopted Budget was \$472,643
- District concurs with the Grand Jury Report that the annual costs associated with health care benefits for active employees as of October 1, 2009 were \$28,812
- District concurs with the Grand Jury Report that the Santa Clara Elementary School District did not offer any District-paid health benefit plans to retirees as of October 1, 2009. However, retirees and their dependents were allowed to participate in the District's health plan provided the retiree reimbursed the District for the full amount of the cost of coverage.
- District concurs with the Grand Jury Report that the health care benefits plan for active employees is on a pay-as-you-go basis
- Due to the District-paid cap for health benefits and no District-paid retiree health plans as of October 1, 2009, there were no unfunded health care benefits liabilities

Recommendation R-01. Adopt a policy of prefunding retiree health care benefits:

Recommendation R-02. Identify cost reductions to allow District to achieve calculated ARC:

Recommendation R-06. Educate and communicate employees, retirees, and parents of students regarding the OPEB issue:

Recommendation R-07. Take a pro-active role in solving the unfunded liability crisis for the District:

Recommendation R-08. Consider alternatives to resolve this serious financial situation:

- R-01, R-02, R-06, R-07, and R-08 Not applicable – No District-paid retiree health benefits as of October 1, 2009

**Santa Clara Elementary School District
Response to Grand Jury Report
September 28, 2010
Page two of two**

Recommendation R-03. Leverage the economies of scale by acting as a bargaining unit and selecting a health care plan for all employees:

- The District already leverages the economies of scale by participating with other school districts in California in the Self-Insured Schools of California (SISC) joint powers health benefit insurance pool administered by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office

Recommendation R-04. Use language in District's financial report to communicate to average County taxpayer, employee, and retiree how tax dollars are being spent and to recognize the District's financial indebtedness:

- The financial reports of the District include a narrative which summarizes the information included in the California State-Required report format into a document that is more easily understood by the public.

Recommendation R -05. Post the entire District budget on the District website:

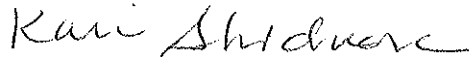
- This recommendation will be studied and included on the Board agenda for consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity for the Santa Clara Elementary School District to review and respond to the Grand Jury on this topic. If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or Kari Skidmore, Principal/Teacher, via phone (District Office 805-525-4573) or via email DKHOB@aol.com or kskidmore@scesd.k12.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Deann Hobson, Board President
Santa Clara Elementary School District



Kari Skidmore, Principal/Teacher
Santa Clara Elementary School District

Cc: Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of CA, Ventura County, P.O. Box 6489, Ventura, CA 93006

Members, Somis Union School District Board
Cynthia Hansen, Chief Business Official

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NOV 3 2010

VENTURA COUNTY
GRAND JURY

SANTA CLARA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

20030 East Telegraph Road
Santa Paula, California 93060
(805) 525-4573



October 27, 2010

Ventura County Grand Jury
800 S. Victoria Avenue, L#3761
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Response Follow-up from Santa Clara Elementary School District to Grand Jury Report: *The Half Billion Dollar Elephant in our Schools' Closets*

Members of the Ventura County Grand Jury:

As requested in your letter dated October 23, 2010 regarding Santa Clara Elementary School District's response to the Ventura County 2009/2010 Grand Jury Report titled *The Half Billion Dollar Elephant in Our Schools' Closets*, following are the revised responses:

Recommendation R-05. Post the entire District budget on the District website:

- This recommendation will be studied and presented to the Santa Clara Elementary School District's Governing Board on November 17, 2010 for review, discussion, and decision. A response with the results of the study will be forwarded to the Grand Jury no later than December 11, 2010. The scope and parameter of the study will include:
 - The additional staffing resources needed to maintain the entire District budget on the website. Currently, the District only has one administrator (Teacher/Principal) who is responsible for teaching in the classroom as well as performing all job responsibilities of Principal and Superintendent. Also, there is only one classified part-time School Clerk in the office. Therefore, the District maintains only the required documents on the District's small website (i.e., School Accountability Report Card).
 - The benefits to the public of providing the entire budget on the District's website versus the additional costs to the District for posting the entire budget on the District's website. The study will include the frequency of public requests received by the District for copies of the budget.

Recommendation R-06. Educate and communicate employees, retirees, and parents of students regarding the OPEB issue:

- This recommendation is not warranted because the Santa Clara Elementary School District does not offer any District-paid retiree health benefits.

Recommendation R-07. Take a pro-active role in solving the unfunded liability crisis for the District:

- This recommendation is not warranted because the Santa Clara Elementary School District does not offer any District-paid retiree health benefits. Therefore, the District does not have any unfunded liabilities for Other Post-Employment Benefits.

Recommendation R-08. Consider alternatives to resolve this serious financial situation:

- This recommendation is not warranted because the Santa Clara Elementary School District does not offer any District-paid retiree health benefits. Therefore, the District does not have any unfunded liabilities for Other Post-Employment Benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity for the Santa Clara Elementary School District to review and respond to the Grand Jury on this topic. If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Kari Skidmore, Principal/Teacher, via phone (District Office 805-525-4573) or via email kskidmore@scesd.k12.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Deann Hobson

Kari Skidmore

Deann Hobson, Board President
Santa Clara Elementary School District

Kari Skidmore, Principal/Teacher
Santa Clara Elementary School District

Cc: Honorable Kevin J. McGee, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of CA, Ventura County, P.O. Box 6489, Ventura, CA 93006
Members, District Board Cynthia Hansen, Chief Business Official