

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence for All"

Board of Trustees

Rosario Ruiz-Dark, President
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Board of Trustees

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District Website: www.wjUSD.org

Dr. Debra LaVoi, Superintendent

August 20, 2009

Honorable Janet Gaard
Judge of the Yolo Superior Court
Department 15
1100 Main Street, Suite 300
Woodland CA, 95695

RECEIVED
YOLO COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURTS

AUG 20 REC'D Clerk
By Edwina Harper
Deputy

Re: Response to Yolo County Grand Jury Report by Board of Trustees
(Woodland Joint Unified School District)

Enclosed please find one original and five copies of the Board's response to the Yolo County Grand Jury Report for filing today. Please return the filed-endorsed copies to our office.

Sincerely,

Noemi Morones

Noemi Morones
Executive Assistant
Superintendent's Office
Woodland Joint Unified School District

Cc: Clerk of the Court

Board of Supervisors, Yolo County

Board of Trustees
Woodland Joint Unified School District

**Response to Yolo County Grand Jury Report by
Board of Trustees of Woodland Joint Unified School District**

I. Introduction

The Board of Trustees for the Woodland Joint Unified School District (“Board”) hereby submits a response to the Yolo Grand Jury Report dated June 30, 2009. In the prior report dated June 30, 2008, it was stated that the Grand Jury recommended that the 2008-09 Grand Jury continue the investigation of the Woodland Joint Unified School District (WJUSD) including, but not limited to, compliance with the Brown Act. The following is a response to the findings and recommendations of the new report (June 30, 2009).

II. Response to findings

Finding F-1: Brown Act training has been conducted for all current Board members as recommended by the 2007-2008 Grand Jury

The District welcomes the acknowledgement regarding Brown Act training which was conducted on September 27, 2008 by Attorney Scot Yarnell from the law firm of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo.

Finding F-2: The Board has initiated a program to ensure future Board members receive Brown Act training within six months of taking office, and current members receive refresher training every two years, but that requirement has not yet been incorporated into written Board Policy.

The newest Board Member, Mr. William Herms, was appointed to the Board on February 26, 2009. Training was scheduled for Mr. Herms, and held on July 23, 2009, thereby meeting the six month recommendation. New Superintendent Dr. Debra LaVoi, Associate Superintendents Mark Bonnett, Dr. Debra Calvin, and Mike Stevens, and Executive Assistant Marilyn Hisle also participated in that training.

The new requirements as noted in the finding were approved by the Board on May 28, 2009, as revised Board Policy 9240 Board Professional Development. See Appendix A.

Finding F-3: The WJUSD has placed itself in untenable and very costly position with regard to its current lease agreement on the Blue Shield property.

The Board will continue to study its options, given the current state of the economy and the impact of the state budget crisis on the District.

III. Response to Recommendations

Recommendation 09-01: The Board should continue its Brown Act training plan and incorporate training requirements into its written policy and procedures as soon as possible.

Response to Recommendation 09-01:

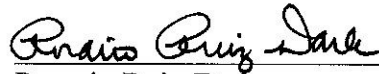
On May 28, 2009, the Board took action to approve Revised Board Policy 9240 Board Professional Development, which includes the recommended training for new and current Board members. See Appendix A.

Recommendation 09-02: It is imperative that the Board utilize the most effective and immediate funding mechanism to ensure that the property known as the Blue Shield building be purchased under the terms of Option 3 as described above.

Response to Recommendation 09-02:

The Board appreciates the in-depth analysis from the Grand Jury of the Blue Shield building lease. The Board will continue to study its options, including Option 3 as recommended. All avenues of action will be investigated, including the possibility of a General Obligation Bond. It is the intent of the Board to act in the best interests of the District.

Dated: 8/13/09



Rosario Ruiz-Dark
President, Board of Trustees
Woodland Joint Unified School District