



Report #5 Honoring Commitments, #2 of 2 Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees

1 message

Eva Renteria <eva_renteria@pvusd.net>
To: grandjury@scgrandjury.org
Cc: Michelle Rodriguez <michelle_rodriguez@pvusd.net>

Wed, Nov 18, 2020 at 2:48 PM

Good afternoon Mr. Richard H. Goldberg,

The response to the Grand Jury report, Honoring Commitments To The Public, for Pajaro Valley Unified School District was mailed on August 3, 2020 via US Postal Certified Mail to the attention of the Honorable Judge John Gallagher. Attached is a copy of the certified mail label. Thank you for alerting us that you did not have the response in your possession. It is unfortunate that the certified mail containing our response was not received by your office.

Attached is a digital copy of the July 22, 2020 letter with the formal response we mailed on August 3, 2020. I will be sending a copy of the letter via first class mail. Please let me know when you have received it in your office.

Thank you,

--

Eva Renteria
Executive Assistant
Office of the Superintendent
Pajaro Valley Unified School District
(831) 786-2135



2 attachments

Judge Gallagher Response ltr certified mail label.pdf
362K

Grand Jury COC Response ltr Board 7-22-20.pdf
1515K



County of Santa Cruz

Civil Grand Jury
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-I
Santa Cruz, Ca 95060
(831) 454-2099

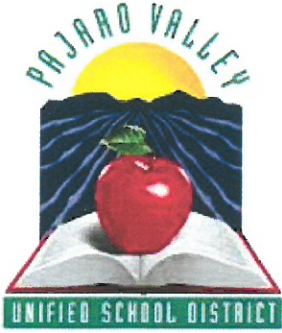
November 20, 2020 at 3:59 PM

A representative from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District left a voicemail message on the above date confirming that the District approved its response to the Honoring Commitments report on 7/22/20.

The Correspondence Committee on behalf of

Richard H. Goldberg

Richard H. Goldberg, Foreperson
2020–2021 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury



July 22, 2020

Business Services

Joe Dominguez
Chief Business Officer

The Honorable Judge John Gallagher
Santa Cruz Courthouse
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Judge Gallagher:

Pursuant to California Penal Code section 933.05(f), please consider this letter as the formal response (“Response”) from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees (“District Board”) to the 2019-2020 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury’s request that the District Board respond to the findings and recommendations specified in the report entitled *Honoring Commitments to the Public: Review of 2016-17 Grand Jury Report Responses*.

Following receipt of the Grand Jury Report entitled *Pajaro Valley Unified School District Bond Measure L* on June 13, 2017 (the “Final Report”), the District Board submitted responses to eleven (11) Findings and ten (10) Recommendations, which were addressed in the order presented in the Final Report. This Response addresses the Grand Jury’s request for a further response from the District Board to the following Findings and Recommendations.

Dr. Michelle Rodriguez
Superintendent of Schools

FINDINGS

Board of Trustees

Daniel Dodge Jr.
President

Jennifer Holm
Vice President/Clerk

Georgia Acosta

Kimberly De Serpa

Maria Orozco

Karen Osmundson

Jennifer Schacher

Student Trustee
Stella Renee Sierra

Finding No. 3: The Pajaro Valley Unified School District can improve its oversight and communications by following the The California League of Bond Oversight Committees (CalBOC) Best Practices document on School Bond Oversight Committees Operations Standards.

Response:

- Agree***
- Partially Disagree – explain the disputed portion***
- Wholly Disagree – explain why***

Explanation: The District Board partially disagrees with this Finding. As noted in its response to Finding 3 in the Final Report, the District provides initial and ongoing training to members of its Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (“COC”). A copy of The California League of Bond Oversight Committees (CalBOC) Best Practices document on School Bond Oversight Committees Operations Standards (“CalBOC Best

Practices”) was distributed and reviewed by the COC during its September 17, 2013 meeting. During subsequent trainings, including an April 6, 2016 training facilitated by the District’s bond counsel, additional training materials addressing the COC’s duties and obligations under the law were also distributed to COC members. The CalBOC Best Practices document remains one of the training materials available to the COC as a reference tool. However, in fulfilling its duties and obligations under Education Code section 15278 and the requirements of Proposition 39, the COC continues to follow the guidance and recommendations provided by the District’s legal counsel and bond counsel, as well as its own bylaws.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation No. 3: The PVUSD should require its Citizens’ Oversight Committee to deliver and publish regular status updates according to the The California League of Bond Oversight Committees (CalBOC) Best Practices document on School Bond Oversight Committees Operations Standards.

Response:

- Has been implemented*** – summarize what has been done
- Will be implemented in future*** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- Requires further analysis*** – explain scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- Will not be implemented because not warranted or reasonable*** – explain why

As noted in its response to Finding 2 in the Final Report, the COC had presented information to the District Board on 25 occasions since 2012. The COC also presents an Annual Report to the District Board. The COC meets throughout the school year and reserves the Annual Report for the last month of the fiscal year in order to summarize all of its activities for the year.

Further the Grand Jury’s request for this Response states: “The 2019-2020 Grand Jury now sees that the COC *informs the public, reports to the PVUSD Board, and oversees the project as evidenced on its website, which states ‘The Measure L Bond Citizens Oversight Committee ensures funds are adequately spent. Please visit Citizens Oversight Committee Website for information on meetings, agendas, minutes, and presentations.’* (Emphasis added.) The COC remains committed to providing the District Board and the public with regular reports and information regarding its activities in full compliance with all legal requirements.

As discussed above at Finding No. 3, the CalBOC Best Practices document is included in training materials that are made available to COC members as a reference tool. The COC follows the guidance and recommendations provided by the District’s legal counsel and bond counsel, as well as its own bylaws, in order to ensure it meets all of its obligations under the law.

We hope this Response address the Grand Jury’s request.

Respectfully,


Daniel Dodge Jr.
President
Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees

cc: Claudia Weaver, Lozano Smith, Attorneys at Law