



JOHN SWETT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 31, 2020

By U.S. Mail & E-Mail: ctadmin@contracosta.courts.ca.gov
Contra Costa County Grand Jury
Attn: Foreperson
P.O. Box 431
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report No. 2008

Dear Foreperson:

In response to your letter dated June 10, 2020, the Governing Board of the John Swett Unified School District "District" provides this response to the following findings and recommendations in Grand Jury Report No. 2008- Do Our Public Schools Have Adequate Emergency Supplies?, as requested.

Findings:

Finding #1: The California Education Code does not specify the type of supplies schools should maintain for emergencies.

Response to Finding #1: The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #2: Each Contra Costa County school district determines its own emergency preparedness plans (based on California State Education Department guidelines), including the amount and type of emergency supplies to maintain at its schools.

Response to Finding #2: The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #3: The Contra Costa County Office of Education posts on its website a recommended list (minimum standard list) of emergency supplies for school districts.

Response to Finding #3: The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #4: Some Contra Costa County school districts did not demonstrate that they maintain supplies in conformity with the Contra Costa County Office of Education minimum standard list.

Response to Finding #4: The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #5: Some Contra Costa County school districts fund purchasing and replenishment of emergency supplies through their annual budgets, but most school districts in Contra Costa County fund them through parent or community donations.

Response to Finding #5: The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #6: Contra Costa County school districts can apply for federal, state, corporate or non-profit organization grants to help pay the cost of acquiring and maintaining school emergency supplies.

Response to Finding #6: The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #7: Each Contra Costa County school district has either a designated safety/ resource officer or a school administrator who fills the safety/ resource officer role.

Response to Finding #7: The District agrees with the finding.

Finding #8: There is no legal requirement that teachers renew CPR and First Aid certification training after teachers initially obtain their teaching credential.

Response to Finding #8: The District agrees with the finding.

Recommendations:

Recommendation #1: Each Contra Costa County school district board should consider adopting the Contra Costa County Office of Education Emergency Supplies list (minimum standard list) for its schools and identifying funding sources to purchase the supplies, by December 31, 2020.

Response to Recommendation #1: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will require further analysis. Our Coordinator of Safety, Security, and Attendance will evaluate the Contra Costa County Office of Education Emergency Supplies list to determine the feasibility of procuring and storing the items in this list and report to our Governing Board by January, 2021.

Recommendation #3: The Contra Costa County school district boards should consider applying for federal, state, corporate, and non-profit organization grants to fund the acquisition of school emergency supplies, by June 30, 2021.

Response to Recommendation #3: This recommendation requires further analysis. As a small district, completing the applications for grant funds is a challenging process and we lack the personnel to write such grants. We will seek ways to participate in a consortium of other districts in the county to apply for funding. This will be coordinated by our Safety, Security, and Attendance Coordinator by December 31, 2020.

Recommendation #4: Each Contra Costa County school district board should consider developing a plan to identify organizations that provide CPR and First Aid certification refresher training for district teachers, by December 31, 2020.

Response to Recommendation #4: This recommendation has been implemented. The District has a list of organizations and individuals to provide training and refresher training. This list includes American Medical Response/Contra Costa County Fire. They are providing hands-only CPR and Stop-the-Bleed training.

Recommendation #5: Each Contra Costa County school district board should consider developing a plan to identify funding, if necessary, to provide CPR and First Aid certification refresher training for district teachers, by December 31, 2020.

Response to Recommendation #5: This recommendation requires further analysis. Requiring training will involve coordination with our bargaining units and the allocation of funds for the training. This will be researched by our Safety, Security, and Attendance Coordinator by December 31, 2020.

This completes the District's response. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Miller".

Charles Miller, Superintendent