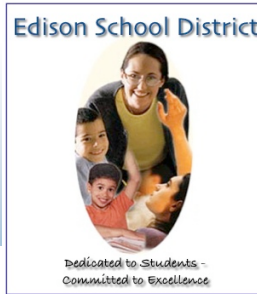


Board of Trustees
Matt Day
Kirstine Harner
Allison Kitchen
Esther Rodriguez
Lisa Strobel



Administration
Superintendent: Stephen M. Ventura
Edison Principal: Loreda Clevenger
Orangewood Principal: Jennifer Delmarter
Director of Accountability and Academics: Erica Andrews

Edison Elementary School District

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June 15, 2009

Presiding Judge
Kern County Superior Court
1415 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report Entitled Edison School District
("the Report")

Dear Presiding Judge:

As required by and pursuant to the provisions of Penal Code section 933.05, the Board of Trustees ("the Board") of the Edison School District, at a duly convened public meeting on June 11, 2009, reviewed and discussed the Report.

In response to the Grand Jury's findings, the Board determined as follows:

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 1

"The District students are comprised of 70% Hispanic and 30% Caucasian or other. English learners encompass 48% of the students with 87% qualifying for free or reduced lunch fees."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 1:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 2

"All classes are taught in English although the Teachers' Aides are bi-lingual."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 2:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 3

"The Districts Academic Performance Index is below 700 which is short of the State target of 800."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 3:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 4

"Gifted and Talented Education (G.A.T.E.) funding is not lucrative as there are not enough numbers to generate individual classes, however, there are G.A.T.E. clusters at all levels of education."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 4:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 5

"Edison Middle School is 60 years old and is undergoing a \$3,100,000 renovation project. The District is building a state funded gymnasium for \$3,600,000."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 5:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 6

"Both campuses were clean and in good repair."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 6:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 7

"The cafeteria at Orangewood Elementary School provided an adequate and healthy lunch."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 7:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 8

“The District partners with Fairfax School District in a truancy reduction program.”

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 8:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 9

“The District has reached a 17% budgetary reserve although the State mandates 3%. The District is fiscally sound.”

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 9:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding. The 17 percent figure applies to the District’s 2008-09 budget.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 10

“The District does not offer stipends or benefits to Trustees.”

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 10:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 11

“The School Board Agenda and Minutes are on the District’s website. The activities calendars at the websites are not up to date.”

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 11:

The Board agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding that the school board agenda and minutes are posted on the District’s website. The activities calendars for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are now posted and up to date. (see <http://www.edisonsd.com/Calendar.html>)

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 12

“The District participates in the Migrant Education Program (MEP) with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. The MEP is a federally funded grant program to provided targeted education to children of migrant families.”

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 12:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury’s finding.

GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 13

"The District is in full compliance with federally mandated I-9 forms."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINDING NO. 13:

The Board wholly agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

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In response to the Grand Jury's recommendations, the Board determined as follows:

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

"The individual campus' website activities calendar should be updated on a monthly basis."

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION NO. 1:

The Board is not aware of any legal requirement to update the individual website calendars on a monthly basis. However, the Board will instruct staff to endeavor to post current monthly activities for each campus on the District website.

For the Grand Jury's information, the District has revamped the Edison Middle School website (<http://www.edisonsd.com/edisonms/Edison.html>) and is in the process of revamping the Orangewood site (<http://www.edisonschooldistrict.org/orangewood/>).

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

The Edison Elementary School District should post a copy of this report where it will be available for public review.

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION NO. 2:

A copy of the Grand Jury's Findings was posted with the agenda for the public meeting involving the foregoing actions and is also posted on the District website located at www.edisonsd.com

Very truly yours,



President, Board of Trustees
Edison School District