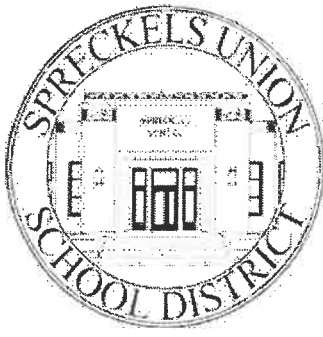




Spreckels Union School District

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Eric Tarallo, Superintendent

June 14, 2022

Honorable Stephanie E. Hulse
Judge of Superior Court
c/o Office of County Counsel
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd FL
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Spreckels Union School District's Response to the 2021-22 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report: "Excellence in Action: Monterey County's Educational Response to Covid-19"

Dear Honorable Judge Hulse:

The Spreckels Union School District (SUSD) Board of Trustees greatly appreciates the work that the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury put into its recent report. After such a difficult past two years, it was gratifying to read that local educational entities were praised for the challenging work we have done during the Covid-19 pandemic. Below is SUSD's response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

Findings

The SUSD Board of Trustees **agrees** with Findings 1, 5, and 8-13.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: School districts maintain a minimum level of one behavioral support staff member at each school site until the end of the 2025-26 school year. For the first time in decades, SUSD has hired a full-time counselor for each of its two school sites, Spreckels Elementary School and Buena Vista Middle School. The additional social-emotional-behavioral support is part of the district's recently adopted "bridging program" that address both academic learning loss and the social-emotional-behavioral trauma students have faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The newly created counselor positions have been included in the district Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and can be found on the district's website at [Spreckels Union School District LCAP](#).

This recommendation has been **implemented**.

Recommendation 2: School districts maintain learning loss mitigation programs and extended learning opportunities until the end of the 2025-26 school year. Similar to the social-emotional-behavioral support documented above, SUSD's "bridging program" also includes additional staffing and professional development in the area of learning loss mitigation. Specifically, the district has hired a full-time intervention teacher at the elementary school and maintained its reading and math intervention programs at the middle school. Additionally, the district has worked with its teachers' bargaining unit to finalize agreements that compensate existing staff members to provide before/after-school tutoring and summer school.

The district has not yet finalized its plan for extended learning opportunities (ELOP plan) but expects to complete it by the end

of the 2022-23 school year. Before and after-school tutoring, however, is already being offered.

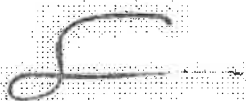
This recommendation has been partially implemented.

Once again, we thank the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury for their work on this report and thank it for the acknowledgement of educators' difficult work the past two years and going forward. If any more information is required from us, please contact Superintendent Eric Tarallo at etarallo@susd.net or 455-2550 x316.

Sincerely,



Eric Tarallo
SUSD Superintendent



Steve McDougall
SUSD Board President

Board approved on July 7, 2022