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James R Koenig, Superintendent

July 15, 2022

Honorable, Stephanie E. Hulsey
Judge of the Superior Court
Office of the City Counsel
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd FL
Salinas, CA 93901

**Re: 2021-2022 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report –
“Excellence in Action: Monterey County’s Educational Response to Covid-19”**

Dear Judge Hulsey:

Please accept the following information as the Alisal Union School District’s response to the 2021-2022 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report – “Excellence in Action: Monterey County’s Educational Response to Covid-19”

Findings

F1. Educators and classified staff in Monterey County are to be commended for their initiative and flexibility in meeting the challenges of COVID-19. From the MCOE Superintendent to the newest part-time classroom aide, county educational employees went beyond their job descriptions in meeting the needs of students and their families during the pandemic.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

F5. Administrators, teachers, and information technology staff in Monterey County are to be commended for making great strides in providing remote learning devices and solving internet access problems during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

F8. Despite a lack of preparedness at many levels of government, MCOE, school districts, and staff responded to the impact of the pandemic in a timely manner.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

F9. Monterey County successfully expanded internet connectivity due to the efforts of MCOE, industry partners, grant institutions, the Digital Task Force, and school district investment in technology.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

F10. There is increased collaboration and coordination among agencies that provide services and support, including the MCOE, Monterey County Behavioral Health, the Monterey County Health Department, internet partners, school districts, support providers, and community groups.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

F11. Administrators, teachers, parents, and students are all extremely concerned about students' social-emotional issues arising from COVID-19.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

F12. Administrators, teachers, parents and students are concerned about the learning loss that took place during the 2020-2021 school year. There is an urgent need for mitigation of such a loss.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

F13. There is a potential for significant fiscal disruption with the continuing loss of ADA and the end of additional federal funding occurring at the same time.

RESPONSE: Alisal USD agrees with this finding.

Recommendations

R1. School districts maintain a minimum level of one behavioral support staff member at each school site until the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented.

R2. School districts maintain learning loss mitigation programs and extended learning opportunities until the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented.

Conclusion

In the event that you need additional information, please contact me at (831) 753-5700, extension 2014.

The Alisal Union School District appreciates the work of the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury in producing and communicating these findings as well as the resulting recommendations, and is grateful for the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,


James R. Koenig,
Superintendent