



Presiding Judge Jacquelyn H. Duffy
Superior Court of California
1035 Palm Street, Room 355
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-1000

January 5, 2021

Judge Jacquelyn H. Duffy,

I am in receipt of the Grand Jury Report "Paso Robles School District: A Cautionary Tale" dated November 17, 2020. Please accept the following responses as requested by the Grand Jury.

Finding 8

The County Office of Education's ability to respond is described in State statute and was followed. The budgeting errors were as a result of internal district procedures not reporting procedures. The County Superintendent of Schools, authority is described by the California [Education Code Section 1240](#).

Recommendations

Recommendation 7: The County Office of Education conflict of interest policies are current and all elected officials must follow disclosure as prescribed in law.

Recommendation 10: Prior to election of county boards of education workshops are held to orient prospective trustees by both local districts and the County Office of Education. Detailed information is shared regarding the scope of fiduciary duties in addition to the vast amount of information publically available. There is no legal requirement for prospective candidates to attend.

Recommendation 8: The ability to report findings in an official capacity is determined by local board policy not the County Office of Education.

Recommendation 9: The County Superintendent of Schools, authority is described by the California [Education Code Section 1240](#) and is fully executed as permissible by law.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James J. Brescia, Ed.D.
County Superintendent of Schools