



ALUM ROCK

UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 5, 2010

Honorable Jamie Jacobs-May  
Presiding Judge  
Santa Clara County Superior Court  
191 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**FILED**

OCT 12 2010

DAVID H. YAMASAKI  
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk,  
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara  
BY D. ALDYCKI *[Signature]*

Dear Honorable Judge:

This letter is in response to the letter sent by Ms. Angie Cardoza, Foreperson dated June 24, 2010, correspondence to Board of Education President, Patricia Potter.

As required by California Penal Code Section 933.05(a,b), the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District response to the Findings and Recommendations from the Civil Grand Jury's Final Report, "Achieving School District Efficiency Through Consolidation".

Should you have questions, I may be reached at (408) 928-6821.

Sincerely,

José L. Manzo  
Superintendent

JM:ms  
Enclosure

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José L. Manzo, Superintendent

Board of Trustees: • Patricia Potter, President • Gustavo González, Vice-President  
• Dolores Márquez, Clerk • Esau Ruiz Herrera, Member • Frank Chávez, Member

Alum Rock Union Elementary School District  
Response to the Santa Clara County Grand Jury's Final Report  
"Achieving School District Efficiency Through Consolidation"

**Finding 1**

*Education and financial benefits can be achieved by consolidation and unification of certain county school districts.*

The Alum Rock Union Elementary School District disagrees with its findings. The Alum Rock School District has substantially increased academic achievement for students and families of Alum Rock. We have been fiscally responsible by taking pro-active steps to contain costs and making reductions to all areas of our operational budget. We have benefited from the confidence and satisfaction of our community by the passage of a recent parcel tax by an incredible approval rating of 75%. We continue to offer innovative programs throughout the district in the areas of Technology, Visual And Performing Arts, Technical Careers with a focus on math concepts, comprehensive music programs which includes vocals, jazz, strings, band, guitar, bells, and Mariachi. We are one of few districts that have been able to sustain Class Size Reduction at a 20:1 ratio in grades K-3.

**Recommendation 1e**

*The Boards of Trustees should consolidate Alum Rock Union School District and Mount Pleasant School District to form a new elementary/middle school district.*

The recommendation will not be implemented. The Civil Grand Jury accurately analyzed regulations that govern how districts are consolidated, correctly pointing out that consolidation decisions lie solely with the affected communities, as opposed to any other regulatory body. The consolidation of Districts is regulated by California Ed Code 35720-35724, and is an electoral process. It does not fall under the purview of either school board.