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Creating Extraordinary Futures

Board of Trustees

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Superintendent

Deborah L. Blow, Ed.D.

September 24, 2010

Ms. Angie Cardoza, Foreperson
2009-10 Civil Grand Jury
Superior Court Building
191 North First St.
San Jose, CA 95113

Dear Ms. Cardoza:

The following is Cambrian School District's response to the Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations "Achieving School District Efficiency through Consolidation" June 2010.

Finding 1

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

Cambrian School District disagrees with finding 1, that educational and financial benefits can be achieved by consolidation and unification of identified school district.

Recommendation 1A

The Boards of Trustees should unify Cambrian School District, Campbell Union School District, Moreland School District, Union School District, and Luther Burbank School District with Campbell Union High School District.

Cambrian School District disagrees.

Cambrian School District believes this is a community decision. There has been no attempt to unify the five partner districts with Campbell Union High School District in the past 20+ years. However, some years ago, the Cambrian School District did explore the possibility of realignment and consolidation among the schools that comprise the Campbell High School District and its feeder districts. The idea was not pursued because it did not appear that it would be financially or academically advantageous for Cambrian students. At the current time there has been no interest in unification presented to the Cambrian School District Governing Board.

FILED

SEP 30 2010

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

We believe that the effectiveness of a school district is enhanced when the political and executive leadership reflects the values of its local community. Local control of a school district allows parents and stakeholders to provide input and feedback to school boards and superintendents and works better in a smaller setting.

We agree that at first blush, it might appear that some financial savings could be achieved through efficiencies of scale and consolidation of some positions. However, these savings would be marginal and largely offset by the subsequent need to add administrative positions to differentiate support for elementary and high school student needs.

We believe that any financial savings would come at the expense of the quality of education provided students, which is our most important focus. The quality of education is a reflection of a district's ability to provide differentiated, targeted curriculum and instructional strategies designed to meet the needs of the students and school communities. Cambrian is a high performing district academically, and this is due to our ability to better meet students' individual needs. We do not feel that this will be accomplished in a larger, unified district setting.

Recommendations 1B

The Boards of Trustees should unify Lakeside Joint School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Los Gatos Union School District and Saratoga Union School District with Los Gatos-Saratoga High School District.

Not applicable. Cambrian School District has no jurisdiction over these districts.

Recommendation 1C

The Boards of Trustees should unify Cupertino Union School District and Sunnyvale School District with Fremont Union High School District.

Not applicable. Cambrian School District has no jurisdiction over these districts.

Recommendation 1D

The Boards of Trustees should unify Los Altos School district and Mountain View Whisman School district with Mountain View-Los Altos High School District.

Not applicable. Cambrian School District has no jurisdiction over these districts.

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.

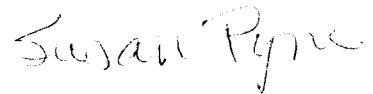
Not applicable. Cambrian School District has no jurisdiction over these districts.

Recommendation 1F

The Boards of Trustees should consolidate Berryessa Union School district and Orchard School District to form a new elementary/middle school district.

Not applicable. Cambrian School District has no jurisdiction over these districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Pyne".

Susan Pyne, President
Board of Trustees