



ORCHARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

921 Fox Lane San Jose, CA 95131

SCHOOL 408-944-0388 • DISTRICT 408-944-0397 • FAX 408-944-0394 • www.orchardsd.org

To: **Don Kawashima**
Foreperson
2008-2009 Grand Jury
191 North First Street,
San Jose, California 95113

September 15, 2009

FILED

SEP 21 2009

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

Re: **Who really benefits from education dollars?**

Finding 1

We disagree. The Board of Trustees receives the same benefits as employees, maximum of \$10,500 and 4 of 5 board members use these benefits. Travel and conference cost are for CSBA conference which is now eliminated from the budget as part of the reductions. There is no pension contribution.

Recommendation 1

The Board of Trustees reviews the benefits as listed above.

Finding 2

Disagree. The Superintendent receives ACSA dues and a 6 month buy-out. Full medical benefits are paid by the district. Superintendent receives a doctoral and masters stipend the same as certificated and classified.

Recommendation 2

The board of trustees annually reviews the superintendent's contract and for the past three years has not received any benefits other than the above.

Finding 3

Disagree.
The superintendent's contract is not tied to districts academic improvement

Recommendation 3

The superintendent's annual evaluation has 5 goals and student achievement is one of the goals but there is no compensation for achieved goals

Finding 4

Board of Trustees does not hire search firms and uses the community made up of staff, management and parents in searches of superintendents.

Recommendation 4

See above

Finding 5

Disagree

Board of Trustees has one counsel for negotiations and legal matters and one counsel for Special Education and established trusting relations with counsel for a10 years.

Recommendation 5

See above. The fees are lower than the county counsel.

Finding 6

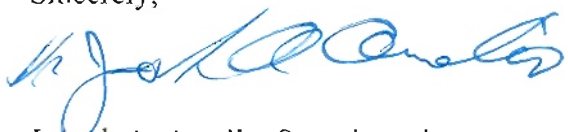
Disagree

The superintendent salary is the lowest in the county and does not reflect high costs per student.

Recommendation 6

The Orchard community wants local control. Orchard has been in existence for 158 years in Santa Clara County.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Amelio, Superintendent
921 Fox Lane, San Jose, CA 95131

CC: Ken Riley, President
Board of Trustees