



PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 4, 2013

FILED

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

VIA U.S. FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Honorable Brian C. Walsh
Presiding Judge
Santa Clara County Superior Court
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: Civil Grand Jury Final Report: Our School Districts Do Not Need Zeros

Dear Presiding Judge Walsh:

The Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) Board of Education received in June 2013 the Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Final Report: Our School Districts Do Not Need Zeros. We have carefully reviewed the report and had public discussions at our Board of Education meetings on August 9, 2013, and August 27, 2013.

First of all, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to the members of the Civil Grand Jury for their concern about school district financing costs. As stated in their report, they wanted to ensure that school districts would not issue more CABs before AB 182 would take effect. The Grand Jury members obviously spent a great deal of time and energy on the report, and it is an excellent document.

Regarding the finding, we agree that CABs may shift large total financing costs of school district facilities to the future.

Regarding the recommendation, PAUSD has complied with the moratorium called for by the State Treasurer and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Board of Education has directed continued compliance at its meeting of August 27, 2013.

We applaud the work of Tom Torlakson and Bill Lockyer in issuing the moratorium letter in January 2013 and its prudent direction regarding school district financings. We have complied with the moratorium and will do so, as directed in the letter, until the Governor and Legislature decide on reforms in the current legislative session.

We also applaud the efforts of the members of the legislature regarding AB 182 (D-Buchanan). The legislature has worked on this bill for a number of months, and we anticipate it being signed into law this year. Once this reform legislation is signed into law, its provisions will bind school district fiscal practices. It is our intent at that point to adopt Board policy consistent with that legislation.

Once again, we are most grateful for the effort of the Civil Grand Jury in this matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana Tom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dana" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Tom".

Dana Tom
President, Board of Education
Palo Alto Unified School District

cc: Board of Education Members
Kevin Skelly, Superintendent of Schools