



FILED

SEP 28 2010

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

September 13, 2010

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

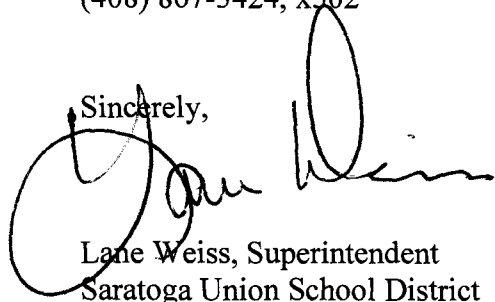
Judge Jacobs-May,

This letter is written in response to the request for responses dated June 24, 2010. The enclosed responses are provided on behalf of Cindy Ruby, President of the Governing Board for the Saratoga Union School District.

The District has provided the requested information to the Grand Jury in a manner consistent with the Public Records Act. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information concerning the responses. My contact information is below:

Lane Weiss, Superintendent
Saratoga Union School District
20460 Forrest Hills Drive
Saratoga, CA. 95070
(408) 867-3424, x502

Sincerely,



Lane Weiss, Superintendent
Saratoga Union School District



September 13, 2010

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

This letter represents the Saratoga Union School District response to your letter of June 24, 2010 regarding the Achieving School District Efficiency Through Consolidation.

Finding 1:

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

Recommendation 1b

The Boards of Trustees should unify Lakeside Joint High 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.

Response:

Finding 1: Partially disagree. The Saratoga Union School District believes that there would be educational benefit to consolidate all schools in the Saratoga Union School District and Saratoga High School in the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District. The Saratoga Union School District disagrees with the finding of educational benefit of consolidating with the Los Gatos Union School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, and Los Gatos High School. The local control and community culture of school districts in Saratoga would provide educational benefit to students, K-12 in Saratoga.

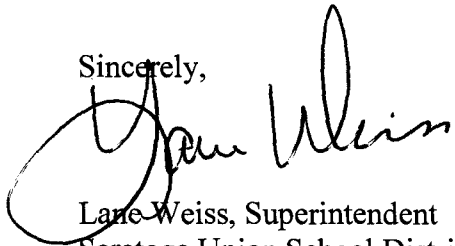
We already have effective articulation among our five school districts. Communication, within and across districts and grade levels, is a priority for our superintendents, principals and staff.

The Saratoga Union School District disagrees that there will be potential financial benefits achieved from consolidation and unification of the Lakeside Joint School District, Loma Prieta Joint Union School District, Los Gatos Union School District, Saratoga Union School District with the Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint Union High School District. Specific financial details and logistics of implementing consolidation need to be carefully analyzed and studied. The financial data provided by the Santa Clara County Grand Jury report does not provide enough detail for the Saratoga Union School District to concur with a finding that financial savings of approximately 7% would be achieved through school district consolidation. Many of the potential savings areas would be offset by an increase in costs involved by creating a larger district geographically.

Smaller sized school districts provide better alignment with community values and interests in public schools. The Saratoga Union School District has a history of managing its schools in a fiscally responsible manner in partnership with the staff, parents, and the community at large.

In conclusion, we believe that a decision to consolidate school districts is a matter for each school board and their local communities to initiate and determine. We therefore respond with (#4): The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, for the reasons listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lane Weiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning of the first name.

Lane Weiss, Superintendent
Saratoga Union School District