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September 19, 2018

Honorable David DeAlba, Presiding Judge
Sacramento Superior Court
720 Ninth Street, Department 47
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Response to Findings in 2017-2018 Final Report of the Sacramento County Grand Jury

Dear Honorable Judge DeAlba:

The Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) is pleased to provide the following response to the applicable recommendations from the June 29, 2018 Sacramento County Grand Jury Report titled Cosumnes Fire District: "Second Chance to Make it Right" – School Inspections.

EGUSD would first like to emphasize that the safety and security of our students and staff is our number one priority, as it is foundational to the provision of a proper learning environment. Consistent with that philosophy, EGUSD feels it is important to note that in addition to the routine inspections provided by our local fire districts, we also have procedures in place to ensure our schools are safe, including but not limited to those ensuring compliance with the highest fire and life safety and security standards.

For instance, the District's Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Department oversees and conducts a schedule of safety inspections on an annual and routine basis. The M&O Department safety inspection schedule includes fire extinguisher inspections, annual Williams' safety inspections (mandated by the State), and fire alarm and suppression systems inspections. In addition, the District's Risk Management Department also conducts a separate schedule of safety inspections throughout the year and as issues and/or concerns arise.

EGUSD also notes that when it first received reports regarding the Cosumnes Fire District's (CFD) practices pertaining to fire inspections, District staff immediately began working with the CFD leadership to gain a clear understanding of its processes and develop a collaborative process with the CFD to continue to ensure the safety of our students into the future.

In EGUSD's view, none but Grand Jury Recommendation No. 4 directly pertains to EGUSD, in any manner that, in light of EGUSD's jurisdiction, would call for EGUSD's concurrence. In that connection, Recommendation No. 4 reads:

School administration needs to be actively involved in the remediation of noted violations.

As a "respondent" within the meaning of Penal Code section 933.05, the Board of Education of EGUSD provides the following comments on Recommendation No. 4.

EGUSD concurs with and has implemented Recommendation No. 4. The following is a summary of the implemented action:

EGUSD and Cosumnes Fire District (CFD) have worked collaboratively to establish the following procedures and practices to ensure that Administration is actively involved with not only the remediation of violations but all fire inspection reports:

1. CFD and EGUSD administrative staff from both the M&O and Facilities Departments will meet monthly to review the status of inspection reports and any outstanding issues. Noted violations from inspection reports will either be immediately corrected or an action plan will be developed for longer term corrections that do not pose an imminent danger. Re-inspection will occur 30 days from the date of the original inspection and if noted violations have not been corrected or addressed a five-day notice will be issued to the District by the CFD. If, after five days any violations remain uncorrected the issue will be elevated to the District's Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent of Business Services and Facilities.
2. Copies of all inspection reports and follow-up actions and documents will be distributed to the school site administration, M&O and Facilities administration.
3. EGUSD's routine inspections of fire sprinklers, fire alarms, extinguishers and hydrants will also be provided to the CFD.

EGUSD would also like to emphasize that during the previous inspections and all future inspections any issues posing imminent danger were/will be immediately addressed. Our mutual priority with the CFD is safety. EGUSD and the CFD are working together to make certain that students and staff in our schools remain safe.

Sincerely,



Christopher R. Hoffman
Superintendent

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