



YUBA CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 6, 2012

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

The Honorable Christopher R. Chandler
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Sutter
446 Second Street
Yuba City, California 95991

Dear Presiding Judge Chandler:

Re: Response to the Report of the 2011-2012 Sutter County Grand Jury

The Yuba City Unified School District (District) submits the following responses to the report of the 2011-2012 Sutter County Grand Jury (SCGJ).

Yuba City Unified School District:

The District is pleased with the section of the Grand Jury report that summarized the visit by the SCGJ to the District. A variety of positive attributes were summarized in the report to include student and campus safety, emergency management, prevention for and response to gangs/drugs, anti-bullying strategies and programs, student nutrition and wellness, along with programs in support of students with special needs and career readiness.

River Valley High School:

While the overall SCGJ visit to River Valley High School was positive, there are several areas in need of clarification.

- Report: "Special Education students can earn a Certificate of Completion."
 - While this is true, over 90% of students with special needs earn a regular high school diploma. The Certificate offers students with Individual Education Plan goals that provide an avenue of study different from that which is outlined in the California Education Code and the Yuba City Unified School District Board Policy for diploma requirements.
- Report: "RVHS offers Physics and YCHS offers Industrial Arts."
 - Both River Valley High School (RVHS) and Yuba City High School (YCHS) are considered comprehensive high schools and each, as such, offers a full gamut of courses in academics and electives. Both high schools offer Physics, among many other science courses.
 - YCHS offers courses in wood, welding, auto, and drafting. Transportation is provided to students from RVHS that wish to take those courses.
 - Both schools offer ROP courses to serve students from around the Tri-County region.
 - Students taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses most often take the corresponding end-of-course AP test. While the cost is approximately \$80 to \$90 dollars, cost does not prevent a student from taking the test. YCUSD provides full financial assistance to students for whom the costs are

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prohibitive. The California Department of Education contributes to that financial assistance.

- Report: "There is an increasing alcohol and marijuana problem in the school."
 - Current data indicates that there has been a decrease in student related alcohol offenses.
 - Current data also indicates that 62 marijuana related offenses were reported in the 2010-2011 school year and sent for disciplinary consequence. This represents a maximum of 3.5% of the student body, due to the fact that some cases associate with students that are multiple offenders.
 - The 2011-2012 school year data reveals 66 related offenses, or a similar % of the student body.
 - YCUSD has programs designed for proactive and preventative information on alcohol and drugs.
 - For example, all fifth and seventh grade students participate in the GREAT program, a joint effort of the District Attorney, YCPD, and Sutter County Probation to help students avoid destructive behavior.
 - The seventh and ninth grade curriculums have specific units of instruction focused on the impacts of drug and alcohol, with an emphasis on prevention.
 - Middle and high school students with proven or developing addictions participate in the INSIGHT program, a small group behavior/attitude modification program focused on decision making and the lifelong effects of drugs and alcohol. This program is facilitated by both Sutter County Probation Officers and YCUSD counselors.
 - All three YCUSD high schools, including RVHS, have made a concerted and proactive effort to address alcohol and drug use through parent, student, and staff education; increased monitoring and security; and consistent disciplinary actions for students found selling, possessing, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
 - Increased diligence by RVHS staff has led to an increase in disciplinary actions due to marijuana related offenses.
 - Campus security, administration, and staff have been trained in the identification of alcohol and drug use.
 - District and site administrators are concerned about the availability of marijuana to students due to medicinal marijuana cards and are seeking ways to engage in conversation with the city and county to address these concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these clarifications. Should there be questions, please feel free to contact me at 822 7600 or naaberg@ycusd.k12.ca.us.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy H. Aaberg
Superintendent

Cc: Steve Scriven, YCUSD Governing Board President
Bill Cornelius, Superintendent Sutter County Schools
Tom Reusser, Principal River Valley High School