

Solvang Elementary School

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BY: _____

Thomas Allcock
Superintendent

Honorable Arthur Garcia
Assistant Presiding Judge
312 East Cook St.
P.O Box 5369
Santa Maria, CA 93456-5369

Hon. Joni Gray
County Administration Building
105 East Anapama St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

September 2011

Response to Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations:

“Local Government Post employment Benefits in Santa Barbara County-Complicated & Costly”

We are in receipt of your findings and recommendations regarding the post employment benefits in Santa Barbara County. As indicated, we are to respond to Findings 1a through 1e and respond to Recommendation 1.

While we agree with your Findings 1a through 1e, Recommendation 1 is not within our scope. Our retirees fall under the CalPERS and CalSTRS defined benefit program. As you may already know, these programs are public record and can be accessed through the State of California websites.

The Solvang School District is part of the statewide CalPERS and CalSTRS pools, and employer contributions are set at the same rate for all school districts. Employer contributions are not based on individual agency retirement liabilities.

Furthermore, it is our contention, that school employees are generally underpaid for their career, contribute to the good of society in innumerable ways and are warranted a reliable decent retirement. That being said, a cap on retirement benefits would benefit all in the system.

We thank the Grand Jury for their interest in this issue. Reform is needed more in some plans more than others. Teachers and other school employees should be at the bottom of the reform list, while Prison Doctors, and others receiving more than \$100,000 a year need reform.

Sincerely,


Thomas Allcock