

The 2015 – 2016 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury

For Immediate Release

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For more information contact:

Maria Millsaps, Grand Jury Foreperson

805-568-2291

News Release

LOMPOC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Problems on the Board

Based on a citizen complaint regarding a potential conflict of interest, the 2015 – 2016 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury (Jury) has investigated the Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD) and its Board of Education (Board).

During the investigation, the Jury found that the Board twice raised the salary of a Board member's wife through contracts with employee groups to which his wife belonged. Both times, the Board allowed the financially-interested Board member to participate in making the contract and vote to approve it.

Further, the Jury learned that the Board has allowed a hostile work environment to exist. The investigation revealed additional problems the Board should address including, but not limited to: tracking and allocation of general funds, travel expenses, purchase/procurement procedures, staff attendance, and unethical behavior.

The Jury issued a report on its investigation in which it lists seven findings with recommendations. The Santa Barbara County Board of Education, Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools, and the Lompoc Unified School District Board of Directors have 90 days in which to respond to the Jury's report.

The Jury's report, titled "Lompoc Unified School District, Problems on the Board", can be found on its website at www.sbcgj.org.

The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury is a basic part of government within the judicial branch. The Grand Jury acts independently, yet is under the general control of the Superior Court Presiding Judge to assure that it acts in accordance with the Penal Code of the State of California.

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