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Trevor McDonald, Superintendent

November 15, 2021

To: Presiding Judge Gustavo Lavayen
312 E. Cook St.
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Pamela Olsen
Foreperson
Santa Barbara County Grand Jury
sbcgj@sbcourts.org

From: Trevor McDonald
Superintendent
Lompoc Unified School District
1301 North A Street
Lompoc, CA 93436

RE: 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report on Remote Learning
During COVID-19

On behalf of the Lompoc Unified School District, we thank you for your service to our community. We appreciate your thorough examination of Santa Barbara County school districts' implementation of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects of remote learning on K-8 students in our school districts. We have reviewed the report on "Remote Learning During COVID-19" developed by the 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury and submit the following responses as requested in Foreperson Olsen's communication of November 8, 2021.

Finding 1

In-person learning is more effective than remote learning both academically and emotionally.

LUSD response: Agree.

Finding 2

For student achievement, especially for low performing students, in-person learning in small classes or small groups is preferable to larger classrooms.

LUSD response: Agree.

Finding 3

Remote learning exposed the importance of outreach efforts to provide coaching to parents on creating a positive home learning environment.

LUSD response: Agree.

Finding 4

Santa Barbara County school districts did not use one common test throughout Santa Barbara County, making it impossible to compare countywide testing results.

LUSD response: Agree.

Recommendation 4

That the Santa Barbara County school districts and the Santa Barbara County Education Office work together to develop a common summative testing program to be adopted for all Santa Barbara County school districts for the 2022-23 school year.

LUSD response: Will be implemented. By 2022-2023 - we expect that all Santa Barbara County school districts will have resumed regular administration of California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) tests in English/Language Arts and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11.

Finding 5

Students with the greatest learning loss will require a concentrated effort to bring them up to Federal and State grade level standards.

LUSD response: Agree.

Recommendation 5

That Santa Barbara County Schools outline their plans to attain Federal and State grade level standards for math and English language arts.

LUSD response: Has been implemented. The Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) for LUSD outlines the District's plans, which includes a Learning Continuity Plan to improve services for high needs students and a "jump start" summer school program targeted at struggling students. Additionally, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant (ELOG) plan shows the District's strategy for identifying students in need of supplemental support, as well as the services that will be offered, like tutoring, after school support, additional staffing, and learning recovery programs. Finally, the ESSER III plan shows the breakdown of how funding will be applied to various programs to address the impact of lost instructional time, including summer programs, tutoring, and additional instructional materials. These plans are all available on the LUSD website.

Finding 6

As the 2020-21 school year wore on, remote learning and teaching techniques and students' computer skills improved.

LUSD response: Agree.

Finding 7

Federal and State COVID relief funds cannot be counted on indefinitely.

LUSD response: Agree.

Finding 8

Community organizations provided critical assistance to the Santa Barbara County school districts by expanding their efforts to bridge the learning gap between the home environment and school.

LUSD response: Agree.

Recommendation 8

That each Santa Barbara County school district develop plans by the start of the 2022-23 school year to encourage community organizations to continue to provide critical academic and emotional support.

LUSD response: Has been implemented. Lompoc Unified School District has constant collaboration with various organizations active in Lompoc and Santa Barbara County, including Family Service Agency, CADA, CALM, Behavioral Wellness, Lompoc YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center, Community, CWS, Lompoc Hospital, Lompoc PD, Santa Barbara County Probation, local pediatricians, and other health organizations. LUSD has an open community collaboration twice per month available to all of the organizations mentioned above, monthly collaboration in a Youth Violence Task Force, and meetings with individual organizations on a regular basis. The District contracts with many of the agencies above to provide academic and emotional support with funds from LCFF, Title I, CARES Act, ESSER, Expanded Learning Opportunities Grant (ELOG), Early Learning grants, OJJDP Youth Violence grant, LCSSP grant, and others. The use of those funds is represented in the following plans: LCAP, ELOG, ESSER III, OJJDP, and LCCSP.

Finding 9

Internet services were critical to remote learning and, in most cases, Santa Barbara County school districts filled the gap for homes that did not have them.

LUSD response: Agree.

Recommendation 9

That each Santa Barbara County school district maintain adequate internet services for all students if distance learning or an emergency should again require remote learning.

LUSD response: Has been implemented. Our Technology Department routinely supports families with internet services, either by providing information on low-cost internet access or by loaning them Wi-Fi hot spots. We are also working on providing a community-wide mesh net for Wi-Fi access.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,



Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools
Lompoc Unified School District
