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San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems

Issue

Are the emergency fire alarm systems in San Mateo County public schools providing adequate protection for student safety and school property?

Background

One school day in 2008, during a lunchtime recess, a fire alarm was activated. While school staff investigated the cause of the alarm, the school was safely evacuated and waited for a response from fire or other emergency services, which never happened. The lack of emergency response was due to the fact that there was no direct connection from the school's alarm system to any emergency services agency. The cause of this alarm turned out to be minor, resulting from smoke from food cooking too long in a microwave oven. The incident was referred to the 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury). The Grand Jury assessed the effectiveness and statutory requirements of fire alarm systems in San Mateo County public schools in the summoning of aid during emergencies.

The current fire safety laws applicable to public schools are derived from a school fire that happened in 1997 at East Palo Alto's Green Oaks Academy. A student reported that the school was on fire after seeing flames coming out of an unoccupied classroom window. Fortunately, no injuries occurred in this fire, but replacing the wing at Green Oaks cost the Ravenswood City School District \$3 million. After a long series of attempts, the California State Legislature passed a new law requiring automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems in public schools. The legislation was called Green Oaks Family Academy Elementary School Fire Protection Act (SB 575), which became law on January 1, 2002. Implementation began July 1, 2002. SB 575 requires schools with new campuses or modernization projects costing more than \$200,000 to install fire alarm systems directly connected to an approved supervising station.

While SB 575 applies to school construction approved by the California Division of State Architects (DSA) office after July 1, 2002, building and fire codes supporting SB 575 were not effective until January 2008. (Attachment 1) Thus, only schools with construction approved after January 2008 are required to have automated alarm systems with direct connection to an approved supervising station. School construction approved prior to January 2008 is grandfathered under previous sections of the fire code. Schools with no new buildings fall under the earlier code and do not require a direct connection to an approved supervising station. The

earlier code only required a staff member to be on campus during normal school hours to call “911” in the event of an emergency.

Investigation

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury consulted numerous resources in the course of this investigation, including applicable statutes related to building and fire codes for schools. The Grand Jury interviewed school personnel, officials at various county fire protection districts and representatives from the California Department of State Architecture and Cal Fire.

The Grand Jury also surveyed all 167 public schools regarding their fire alarm systems and plans for changes to those systems and sent questionnaires with a 100% rate of response. (Attachment 2) From these responses, the Grand Jury compiled the data on a spreadsheet showing which schools have what kind of alarm systems. (Attachment 3)

Findings

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury found that:

1. School alarm systems can be broadly categorized into three types, manual systems, addressable systems, and automated systems.
 - a) Manual systems consist of manual pull stations or smoke detectors that trigger an audible alarm on campus. Schools that use manual pull fire alarm systems are mapped into building zones, which are major sections of a school campus.
 - i. In the lowest standard of the manual pull fire alarm systems allowed by law, data about the specific location of the trouble spot is not transmitted to any location on a campus. When an alarm sounds, school personnel use phones or intercom systems to communicate with each other regarding the location and nature of the problem.
 - ii. In more sophisticated manual fire alarm systems, an indication appears in the school office fire panel that identifies the building zone where the alarm was pulled. This zone indicator makes it easier and faster to direct fire personnel to the critical location.
 - b) Addressable systems are those that when an alarm is activated, a campus-wide alarm sounds and data is transmitted to a fire panel in a central location on campus, typically the school office. The data includes the type of alarm and exact location of the trouble (building, wing, classroom number, location within the classroom). A designated staff member responsible for monitoring the fire panel confirms the alarm as an emergency and calls “911”.
 - c) Automated alarm systems, also known as "smart" systems, have a direct connection to a certified 24-hour supervising station at an off-site alarm company or to a fire or

- police department. If an alarm is triggered, the audible alarm is sounded on campus and the alarm information is automatically transmitted to the school's contracted alarm company. If an authorized staff member at the school determines that no assistance is needed, the alarm can be canceled within 30 seconds. If not cancelled, the alarm company immediately contacts County Public Safety Communications, which provides exact location information and dispatches the nearest fire engine to the scene of the fire.
2. Schools with construction approved prior to January 2008 are not required to upgrade their fire alarm systems as long as the equipment can pass an annual fire inspection or until new construction occurs that is valued over \$200,000. Fire alarm system upgrades can be limited to the buildings that undergo the upgraded construction or new buildings.
 3. Manual alarm systems are allowed to exist in schools where there is no construction or until parts for repair to the fire system are no longer available.
 4. All of the county's large high school districts (San Mateo Union, Jefferson Union, Sequoia Union, and South San Francisco Unified) have automated systems with direct connections to alarm companies.
 5. Half Moon Bay High School in the Cabrillo Unified School District has a manual system with no plans to upgrade.
 6. Fifty percent of elementary and middle schools have automated systems with direct connections to alarm companies. Forty-five percent have either automated systems *without* direct connection to alarm companies or a manual system with plans in place to upgrade.
 7. Schools with automated systems but no direct connection to an alarm company are only required to have the fire alarm panel in the school office manned during normal school hours. However, most schools host after-hours events, such as musical performances and sporting events, and not all schools man the fire alarm panel during these after-hours events. Risk of injury and death is increased during these functions if there is a significant delay in school personnel arriving at the fire panel to determine the location and severity in the event of a fire.
 8. Three schools in the Belmont-Redwood Shores District (Cipriani, Fox, and Central) and four schools in the Cabrillo Unified School District (Farallone View, El Granada, Hatch and Kings Mountain) are on manual pull fire alarm systems with no plans for upgrading or converting their fire alarm systems to automated or addressable systems. The fire alarm systems in these schools are technologically less advanced than those with automated alarms.
 9. Schools with manual systems or automated systems without direct connection to an off-site alarm company must rely upon neighbors or passers-by to contact "911" in the event of a fire that might occur during nights, weekends, or school holidays. Unoccupied, these schools assume greater risk of large-scale fire damage.

10. Annual costs for utilizing an off-site supervising station ranged from as little as \$450 to \$6,800 per year.

Conclusions

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury concludes that:

1. The adequacy of the fire alarm systems in San Mateo County schools varies among the schools and school districts.
2. Schools are responsible for installing and updating school safety systems to minimize the possibility of loss of life and/or property due to fires.
3. All the schools have a fire alarm system that complies with the California State statutes in effect when the buildings were constructed. This is the case whether the school has a manual, addressable, or automated system.
4. Schools with manual systems are at greater risk for injury or property damage due to fire because they do not provide the additional functionality of identifying the exact location of a fire. This increases the time needed for the fire department to arrive at the exact fire location.
5. For a relatively low cost, an upgraded fire alarm system can provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage.
6. All the large high school districts and the majority of elementary schools have fire alarm systems with direct connections to alarm companies and are fully compliant with the codes governing schools with construction from 2008 forward.
7. The Grand Jury commends the following schools and school districts for deploying state-of-the-art fire alarm systems in advance of requirement by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property:

Schools:

Bayshore Elementary School
Nesbit Elementary School
Pescadero High School
Sandpiper Elementary School

School Districts:

Brisbane Elementary
Burlingame Elementary
Hillsborough City Elementary
Jefferson Elementary
Jefferson Union High
Menlo Park City Elementary
Redwood City Elementary
San Mateo Union High
Sequoia Union High
South San Francisco Unified
Woodside Elementary

8. Schools with automated alarm systems but without direct connection to an off-site alarm company have already made the major investment in the equipment and construction necessary for state-of-the-art fire protection. Without a direct connection to an alarm company, these schools are at risk from potential delays in summoning emergency assistance during school hours and, particularly, during after-hours school events. In addition, the likelihood of large-scale property damage is much greater in the event of a fire on a weekend, late night, or during a school vacation period, since there is no automatic link to emergency resources. A direct connection to an alarm company, for an incremental investment, would advance these schools to the level of protection specified in the 2007 California Fire Code.

Recommendations

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The Boards of Trustees of the Belmont-Redwood Shores and Cabrillo Unified School Districts perform a feasibility study and provide, within 90 days, plans for upgrading or converting their manual pull station fire alarm systems to automated systems.
2. The Boards of Trustees of the Pacifica, Las Lomas Elementary, Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary, Portola Valley Elementary, San Carlos Elementary, San Bruno Elementary, Hillsborough City Elementary, and San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School Districts have schools with automated alarm systems that do not have direct connections to alarm companies or local public safety agencies. These schools and school districts should review their policies and procedures to ensure the school's fire alarm control panel is manned by appropriately trained personnel whenever school is in session, occupied, or hosting after-hours events. Additionally, these school districts should budget for upgraded fire alarm systems to provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage.
3. The Boards of Trustees of the Ravenswood City Elementary, Millbrae Elementary, Bayshore Elementary, and San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School Districts, which have schools in the process of upgrading their fire alarm systems or planning to upgrade, should ensure compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.
4. The Boards of Trustees of the Cabrillo Unified and the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School Districts, which have schools under modernization construction, should ensure compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.

Definitions

Automatic Fire Sprinkler System is an approved system of devices and equipment, which automatically detects a fire and discharges water onto or in the area of the fire.

Automatic Fire Alarm System is a system, which automatically detects a fire condition and actuates fire alarm-signaling devices.

Modernization means any modification of a permanent structure or construction of a new building on an existing campus.

New Campus means a school project consisting of one or more buildings on a new site for which plans are submitted to the California Department State Architecture's Office on or after July 1, 2002.



GREEN OAKS FAMILY ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FIRE PROTECTION ACT (SB 575)

IMPLEMENTATION POLICY

The legislature has passed a new law requiring automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems in various school construction projects. The law is known as the Green Oaks Family Academy Elementary School Fire Protection Act (SB 575). This Act became law on January 1, 2002; implementation will begin July 1, 2002. The Division of the State Architect (DSA) will begin implementation on that date. The purpose of this policy is to answer questions about when automatic fire sprinkler or automatic fire alarm systems are required, what is required and how compliance can be achieved. The following definitions are provided to assist the reader. More complete definitions can be found in the California Fire Code and in the Act itself.

Definitions

Automatic Fire Sprinkler System is an approved system of devices and equipment, which automatically detects a fire and discharges water onto or in the area of the fire.

Automatic Fire Alarm System is a system, which automatically detects a fire condition and actuates fire alarm-signaling devices.

Modernization (for purposes of implementation of this policy) means any modification of a permanent structure or construction of a new building on an existing campus.

Portable building means a classroom building or structure of modular design and construction that meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) It is designed and constructed to be relocatable and transportable over public streets.
- (b) It is designed and constructed for relocation without detaching the roof or the floor from the building.
- (c) It has a floor area of 2,000 square feet or less when measured at the most exterior walls.
- (d) It is sited upon a temporary foundation in a manner that is designed to permit easy removal.
- (e) It shall be removed within three (3) years of installation, or the school administration may request a 3-year extension.

New Campus means a school project consisting of one or more buildings on a new site for which plans are submitted to DSA on or after July 1, 2002.

WHEN AUTOMATIC FIRE SPRINKLER AND AUTOMATIC FIRE DETECTION AND ALARM SYSTEMS ARE REQUIRED

The following set of questions and answers, which were developed jointly by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) and DSA, address a number of questions on when automatic fire sprinkler and automatic fire alarm systems are required. The SFM, with the advice of an advisory committee consisting of stakeholders, has produced proposed regulations to further clarify when automatic fire sprinkler and automatic fire alarm systems are required. Those regulations are intended to restate the law as it was adopted. The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) will process the regulations through emergency adoption to be effective July 1, 2002. Should these regulations not be adopted to be effective July 1, 2002, the proposed regulations will serve as the basis for DSA's policy outlined below.

Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm Systems and Sprinkler Systems

Installation of an automatic fire detection and alarm system and automatic fire sprinkler system is required when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The facility serves K through 12 students.
2. The campus is a new campus and the plans are submitted to DSA on or after July 1, 2002.
3. The project is State funded under Chapter 12.5 of the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998. Any amount of such funding qualifies.

Note: Private and parochial school campuses and public school campuses 100 percent funded by local bonds are not required to install automatic fire sprinkler systems under the law.

4. The buildings on campus will be used for educational purposes, regardless of occupancy classifications. This includes, among other buildings, assembly (gymnasiums, multipurpose rooms and auditoriums) and business (administration offices on the campus normally used by students).
5. The plans for the project are required to be reviewed by DSA. For example, bus barns, though reviewed, are not required to be reviewed, thus are not included.

Exception: Portable buildings do not require automatic fire sprinkler systems, only if they meet the exception criteria.

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Buildings constructed on new campuses after the campuses have been provided with automatic fire sprinkler systems as a result of SB 575, will also be required to be provided with an automatic fire sprinkler system if those buildings meet the above conditions.

The Building and Fire Code reduction in code requirements for automatic fire sprinkler systems, i.e., area increases (CBC Section 505.3), height increases (CBC Section 506), reduction in fire rating of walls (CBC Section 508), reduction in fire flow (CFC Appendix III-AA) etc. continue to be allowed even though the system is now required.

Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

Installation of an automatic fire detection and alarm system is required when all of the following conditions are met:

1. The facility serves K through 12 students.
2. The project is State funded under Chapter 12.5 of the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998. Any amount of such funding qualifies.

Note: Private and parochial school projects and public school projects 100% funded by local bonds are not required to install automatic fire alarm systems under this law.

3. The buildings on campus will be used for educational purposes, regardless of occupancy classifications. This includes, among other buildings, assembly (gymnasiums, multipurpose rooms and auditoriums) and business (administration offices on the campus normally used by students).
4. The building plans are required to be reviewed by DSA. For example, bus barns, though reviewed, are not required to be, thus are not included.
5. The campus is a new campus and the plans are submitted to DSA on or after July 1, 2002.

Or

1. Conditions 1-4 above are all met, and
2. The project is a modernization project where the total value is in excess of \$200,000. For this application, modernization projects include construction of buildings on existing campuses; plans of which were submitted to DSA before July 1, 2002.

Exception: Portable buildings do not require automatic fire alarm systems, only if they meet the exception criteria.

WHAT IS REQUIRED

Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems

Automatic fire sprinkler systems are to be designed and installed to conform to California Building Code Standard 9-1, which adopts National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, 1999 edition, with some SFM amendments. See California Building Code, Section 904.1.2 and 9102.7 for guidance. (Previously, the SFM adopted the 1996 edition of NFPA 13.) There are no additional proposed changes to the SFM's automatic fire sprinkler regulations as a result of SB 575.

The DSA will continue to check and approve plans to NFPA 13, which is the same standard they have been checking to in the past.

Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

Automatic fire alarm systems are to be designed and installed to California Electrical Code, Article 760, which along with the CBC, adopts NFPA 72, 1999 edition with SFM amendments. See California Fire Code Section 1007.3.1a, California Electrical code, Article 760 and California Building Code, Section 9102.1 for guidance. Again, these are the same regulations that are used for design and review of fire alarm systems currently being checked and approved by DSA; however, NFPA 72 is expected to be updated to the 1999 edition by the emergency adoption effective July 1, 2002.

The SFM proposed regulations would further modify the California Fire Code as follows:

1. **Automatic Detection.** Smoke detectors shall be used as the primary method of automatic fire alarm system initiation except in areas where the environment or ambient conditions exceed smoke detector installation guidelines; another method of automatic detection such as heat detector shall be used. In areas containing sprinklers, those heat detectors may be omitted.
2. **Design.** The system shall include automatic smoke detectors installed based on the prescriptive-based (guide) information in NFPA 72. Performance-based design as described in Appendix B of NFPA 72 may be used. Automatic detectors shall be installed within every room on the ceiling. Inaccessible areas are not required to be protected. Where the ceiling creates a ceiling cavity plenum or space above the ceiling for non-environmental air, automatic fire sprinklers may be installed to protect such spaces in lieu of automatic detectors.
3. **Occupant Notification** Notification shall be consistent with the requirements

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for audible and visible notification as described in NFPA 72 with California amendments in Chapter 91. Audible notification shall be the ANSI S3.41 Emergency Evacuation Signal, which is the temporal pattern. In addition, an audible alarm notification appliance shall be mounted on the exterior of buildings to alert occupants of the playground area.

4. **Annunciation.** Automatic fire alarm systems shall include annunciation as required by Section 1007.3.3.7a, which states that automatic fire alarm systems shall be divided into alarm zones when required by the authority having jurisdiction.
5. **Supervising Station.** Automatic fire alarm systems shall transmit the alarm, supervisory and trouble signals to an approved supervising station as required by NFPA 72 as amended by Article 91. The supervising station shall be listed as either UUFX or UUJS by Underwriters Laboratory or shall meet the requirements of Factory Mutual Research Approval Standard 3011. A statement that supervision will be provided is required on plans submitted to DSA.
6. **Manual Initiation.** At least one manual box shall be installed for the purpose of manually initiating the fire alarm system. The manual boxes shall be in the administration office area and in public assembly areas such as gymnasiums and auditoriums.

The DSA will accept system designs with these modifications but will not require them until the proposed SFM regulations are adopted and effective. Again, the emergency adoption of the SFM regulations by the CBSC is anticipated to be effective on July 1, 2002.

HOW COMPLIANCE CAN BE ACHIEVED

SB 575 requires that all design submittals to DSA that fall within the law, submitted on or after July 1, 2002, include the automatic fire sprinkler and automatic fire alarm systems. Any plans submitted to DSA before July 1, 2002, are not subject to the requirements of SB 575. Since the SFM regulations are being adopted on an emergency basis and funding issues may not be resolved, approval of plans for automatic fire sprinkler systems or automatic fire alarm systems may be deferred at the written request of the architect or school district, until January 1, 2003.

Note that the statute allows for retroactive funding for certain projects back to September 1, 2001. All funding questions should be directed to the Office of Public School Construction.

All new campuses and modernization projects valued greater than \$200,000 will be considered by DSA to be subject to the automatic fire sprinkler and/or automatic fire

alarm requirements of SB 575 and reviewed accordingly. Projects will not be subject to those requirements if the school district provides a letter at the time of submittal attesting to why the project is exempt. For example, a statement that the project is not state funded under Chapter 12.5 of the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act. Projects that are clearly not subject to SB 575, such as maintenance, will not require the letter. The statement, "Not Subject to SB 575" will be required on the plans in both cases. The DSA will provide verification that plans were received before July 1, 2002, if requested. Note that Friday, June 28, is the last day that DSA offices will be open before the Monday deadline.

The architect or the school district is requested to provide the local fire department with a courtesy set of automatic fire sprinkler and automatic fire detection and alarm system drawings, but DSA is responsible for review and final approval of all plans. The local fire department will be asked to include the location of fire department connection for the fire sprinkler system in their water, gates and access review of the site plan before final approval by DSA.

Questions concerning this policy may be directed to David E. Casey, Chief Fire and Life Safety Officer, DSA, via phone at (916) 327-8919, or via email at david.casey@dgs.ca.gov

Attachment 2



**2008-2009 Grand Jury
County of San Mateo**

Hall of Justice
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655
(650) 599-1711; Fax (650) 363-4698

September 16, 2008

Superintendent
(To every public school in San Mateo County)

Dear Superintendent:

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is interested in learning more about school Emergency fire alarm systems in the San Mateo County Public School Districts.

Please complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to the Education Committee by September 30, 2008. The purpose of the questionnaire is to help us understand the fire alarm systems in each individual school in your district. Your answers on this questionnaire will be strictly confidential.

It is important that you return all the completed questionnaires **no later than 9-30-08** to:

Meredith Monica, Chairman
Education Committee
San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury

In care of:
Mas Chikasuye
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

or

Fax to: 650-363-4698 or
e-mail mchikasuye@sanmateocourt.org

Following is the questionnaire. Please make copies of the questionnaire and complete one for **each** school in your District.

Thank you in advance for your attention and thoroughness. If you have any questions, please contact me at (650) 465-1551.

Meredith Monica, Chairman
Education Committee
SMC Civil Grand Jury

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury Education Committee Questionnaire

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is interested in learning more about school Emergency fire alarm systems in the San Mateo County Public School Districts. Please make copies of this form and provide the following information for **each** school in your district.

Name and Title of respondent: _____

Date: _____

1. School Name: _____

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? (*An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.*) If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. _____

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. _____

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? _____

Please return all forms **no later than 9-30-08** to: Meredith Monica, Chairperson,
Education Committee, San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury.

In care of: Mas Chikasuye
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
or Fax-650-363-4698 or e-mail mchikasuye@sanmateocourt.org

Thank you.

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
 Public School Fire Alarm Survey Results
 11/19/2008

Attachment 3

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	UPGRADE PLANS
BAYSHORE ELEMENTARY	BAYSHORE	Y	Y	N/A
BAYSHORE ELEMENTARY	ROBERTSON	N	N	Y
BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES ELEMENTARY	CENTRAL	N	N	N
BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES ELEMENTARY	CIPRIANI	N	N	N
BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES ELEMENTARY	FOX	N	N	N
BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES ELEMENTARY	NESBIT	Y	Y	N/A
BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES ELEMENTARY	RALSTON	Y	N	N/A
BELMONT-REDWOOD SHORES ELEMENTARY	SANDPIPER	Y	Y	N/A
BRISBANE ELEMETARY	BRISBANE	Y	Y	N/A
BRISBANE ELEMETARY	LIPMAN	Y	Y	N/A
BRISBANE ELEMETARY	PANORAMA	Y	Y	N/A
BURLINGAME ELEMENTARY	BURLINGAME	Y	Y	N/A
BURLINGAME ELEMENTARY	FRANKLIN	Y	Y	N/A
BURLINGAME ELEMENTARY	LINCOLN	Y	Y	N/A
BURLINGAME ELEMENTARY	McKINLEY	Y	Y	N/A
BURLINGAME ELEMENTARY	ROOSEVELT	Y	Y	N/A
BURLINGAME ELEMENTARY	WASHINGTON	Y	Y	N/A
CABRILLO UNIFIED	CUNHA	N	N	Y
CABRILLO UNIFIED	EL GRANDA	N	N	N
CABRILLO UNIFIED	FARALLONE VIEW	N	N	N
CABRILLO UNIFIED	HALF MOON BAY HIGH	N	N	N
CABRILLO UNIFIED	HATCH	N	N	N
CABRILLO UNIFIED	KINGS MT	N	N	N
CABRILLO UNIFIED	CABRILLO ADULT	N	N	N
CABRILLO UNIFIED	PILARCITOS ALTERNATIVE HIGH	N	N	N

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
 Public School Fire Alarm Survey Results
 11/19/2008

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	UPGRADE PLANS
HILLSBOROUGH CITY ELEMENTARY	BRIDGE	Y	Y	N/A
HILLSBOROUGH CITY ELEMENTARY	CROCKER	Y	Y	N/A
HILLSBOROUGH CITY ELEMENTARY	NORTH HILLSBOROUGH	Y	Y	N/A
HILLSBOROUGH CITY ELEMENTARY	SOUTH HILLSBOROUGH	Y	Y	N/A
HILLSBOROUGH CITY ELEMENTARY	WEST HILLSBOROUGH	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	DANIEL WEBSTER	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	FERNANDO RIVERA	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	GARDEN VILLAGE	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	GEORGE WASHINGTON	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	JOHN F KENNEDY	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	MARGARET PAULINE BROWN	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	MARJORIE TOBIAS	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	SUSAN B ANTHONY	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	THOMAS EDISON	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	THOMAS R POLLICITA	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	WESTLAKE	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY	WOODROW WILSON	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON UNION HIGH	JEFFERSON	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON UNION HIGH	OCEANA	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON UNION HIGH	TERRA NOVA	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON UNION HIGH	WESTMOOR	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON UNION HIGH	JEFFERSON UNION ADULT ED	Y	Y	N/A
JEFFERSON UNION HIGH	THORTON HIGH	Y	Y	N/A

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
 Public School Fire Alarm Survey Results
 11/19/2008

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	UPGRADE PLANS
LA HONDA-PESCADERO UNIFIED	LA HONDA	N	N	Y
LA HONDA-PESCADERO UNIFIED	PESCADERO ELM & MID	Y	Y	N/A
LA HONDA-PESCADERO UNIFIED	PESCADERO HIGH	N	N	Y
LAS LOMITAS ELEMENTARY	LA ENTRADA	Y	N	N/A
LAS LOMITAS ELEMENTARY	LAS LOMITAS	Y	N	N/A
MENLO PARK CITY ELEMENTARY	ENCINAL	Y	Y	N/A
MENLO PARK CITY ELEMENTARY	HILLVIEW	Y	Y	N/A
MENLO PARK CITY ELEMENTARY	LAUREL	Y	N	N/A
MENLO PARK CITY ELEMENTARY	OAK KNOLL	Y	Y	N/A
MILLBRAE ELEMENTARY	GREEN HILLS	N	N	Y
MILLBRAE ELEMENTARY	LOMITA PARK	N	N	Y
MILLBRAE ELEMENTARY	MEADOWS	N	N	Y
MILLBRAE ELEMENTARY	SPRING VBALLEY	N	N	Y
MILLBRAE ELEMENTARY	TAYLOR	N	N	Y
PACIFICA	CABRILLO	Y	N	N/A
PACIFICA	INGRID B LACY	Y	N	N/A
PACIFICA	OCEAN SHORE	Y	N	N/A
PACIFICA	ORTEGA	Y	N	N/A
PACIFICA	SUNSET RIDGE	Y	N	N/A
PACIFICA	VALLEMAR	Y	N	N/A
PACIFICA	LINDA MAR ED. CENTER	Y	N	N/A
PORTOLA VALLEY ELEMENTARY	CORTE MADERA	Y	N	Y
PORTOLA VALLEY ELEMENTARY	ORMONDALE	Y	N	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	BELLE HAVEN	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	CHAVEZ	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	COSTANO	N	N/A	Y

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
 Public School Fire Alarm Survey Results
 11/19/2008

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	UPGRADE PLANS
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	STANFORD NEW SCHOOL	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	EAST PALO ALTO CHARTER	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	EAST PALO ALTO ACADEMY HIGH	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	BRENTWOOD OAKS	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	JAMES FLOOD MAGNET	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	GREEN OAKS	Y	Y	N/A
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	RONALD McNAIR	N	N/A	Y
RAVENSWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	WILLOW OAKS	N	N/A	Y
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	ADELANTE SPANISH IMMERSION	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	CLIFFORD	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	FAIR OAKS	Y	Y	Y
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	GARFIELD ELEMENTARY CHARTER	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	HAWES	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	HENRY FORD	Y	Y	Y
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	HOOVER	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	J F KENNEDY	Y	Y	Y
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	JOHN GILL	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	McKINLEY INSTITUTE OF TECH	Y	Y	Y
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	NEWCOMER	Y	Y	Y
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	NORTH STAR	Y	Y	Y
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	ORION ALTERNATIVE	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	ROOSEVELT	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	ROY CLOUD	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	SELBY LANE	Y	Y	N/A
REDWOOD CITY ELEMENTARY	TAFT	Y	Y	N/A

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
 Public School Fire Alarm Survey Results
 11/19/2008

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	UPGRADE PLANS
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	ALLEN	Y	N	N/A
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	BELLE AIR	Y	N	N/A
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	CRESTMoor	Y	N	N/A
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	EL CRYSTAL	Y	N	N/A
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	JOHN MUIR	Y	N	N/A
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	PARKSIDE	Y	N	N/A
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	PORTOLA	Y	N	N/A
SAN BRUNO PARK ELEMENTARY	ROLLINGWOOD	Y	N	N/A
SAN CARLOS ELEMENTARY	ARUNDEL	Y	N	N/A
SAN CARLOS ELEMENTARY	BRITTAN ACRES	Y	N	N/A
SAN CARLOS ELEMENTARY	CENTRAL	Y	N	N/A
SAN CARLOS ELEMENTARY	CHARTER LEARNING CTR	Y	N	N/A
SAN CARLOS ELEMENTARY	HEATHER	Y	N	N/A
SAN CARLOS ELEMENTARY	TIERRA LINDA	Y	N	N/A
SAN CARLOS ELEMENTARY	WHITE OAKS	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	ABBOTT	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	AUDOBON	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	THE BAYSIDE S.T.E.M. ACADEMY	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	BAYWOOD	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	BERESFORD	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	BOREL	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	BOWDITCH	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	BREWER ISLAND	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	COLLEGE PARK	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	FIESTA GARDENS INT'L	Y	N	N/A

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
 Public School Fire Alarm Survey Results
 11/19/2008

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	UPGRADE PLANS
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	FOSTER CITY	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	GEORGE HALL	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	HIGHLANDS	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	HORRALL	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	LAUREL	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	MEADOW HEIGHTS	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	NORTH SHOREVIEW MONTESSORI	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	PARKSIDE	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	PARK	Y	N	N/A
SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY	SUNNYBRAE	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO UNION HIGH	ARAGON	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO UNION HIGH	BURLINGAME	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO UNION HIGH	CAPUCHINO	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO UNION HIGH	HILLSDALE	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO UNION HIGH	MILLS	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO UNION HIGH	SAN MATEO	Y	Y	N/A
SAN MATEO UNION HIGH	PENNISULA	N	N	N/A
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH	CARLMONT	Y	Y	N/A
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH	MENLO-ATHERTON	Y	Y	N/A
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH	SEQUOIA	Y	Y	N/A
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH	SUMMIT PREPARATORY	Y	Y	N/A
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH	WOODSIDE	Y	Y	N/A
SEQUOIA UNION HIGH	REDWOOD HIGH	Y	Y	N/A

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury
 Public School Fire Alarm Survey Results
 11/19/2008

DISTRICT NAME	SCHOOL NAME	AUTOMATIC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	UPGRADE PLANS
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	ALTA LOMA	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	BURI BURI	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	EL CAMINO HIGH	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	JUNIPERO SERRA	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	LOS CERRITOS	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	MARTIN	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	MONTE VERDE	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	PARKWAY HEIGHTS	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	PONDEROSA	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	SKYLINE	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO HIGH	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	SPRUCE	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	SUNSHINE GARDENS	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	WESTBOROUGH	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO ADULT	Y	Y	N/A
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED	BADEN HIGH	Y	Y	N/A
WOODSIDE ELEMENTARY	WOODSIDE	Y	Y	N/A

300 El Cerrito Avenue • Hillsborough, CA 94010

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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MARILYN LOUSHIN-MILLER

**DEPT. 28
RECEIVED**

FEB 10 2009

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
SAN MATEO COUNTY

Monday, January 12, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Miram:

The Hillsborough City School District Board of Trustees at their Board meeting on February 4, 2009 disagreed with the findings of the Grand Jury's report regarding San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems, and approved the following response.

Findings:

This respondent *disagrees partially* with the finding.

Recommendations:

1. The Report you issued on San Mateo Public School Fire Alarm Systems contains an error. On page 4, the report correctly lists the Hillsborough City School District as deploying state of the art fire alarms. In attachment 2, page 16, the report correctly lists all of the schools in Hillsborough as having an automated fire alarm system which has a direct connect to an alarm company. All of our schools are, indeed, alarmed and directly connected to the Hillsborough Police and Central County Fire Department(s).
2. However, on page 5 of the report, under Recommendations #2, you list Hillsborough City School District as not having a direct connection to a local public safety agency. This is incorrect.
3. Please revise your report to reflect the accuracy of the data.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Loushin-Miller
Superintendent
Hillsborough City School District

MLM:td

SEQUOIA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

480 JAMES AVENUE, REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94062-1098

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES (650) 369-1412

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
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GORDON LEWIN
OLIVIA G. MARTINEZ
LORRAINE RUMLEY
SALLY D. STEWART

PATRICK R. GEMMA
SUPERINTENDENT

February 5, 2009

Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, Second Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Judge Miram:

I am responding on behalf of the President of the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees. The District is in receipt of a copy of the Grand Jury Report on Public School Fire Alarm Systems. The Sequoia Union High School District agrees with all the Findings by the Grand Jury that relate to the Sequoia district.

We appreciate the commendation and acknowledge that no recommendation from the report pertains to our District.

This Grand Jury Report and this response was accepted by the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees at its meeting of February 4, 2009.

Sincerely,



Patrick R. Gemma, Ed.D.
Superintendent

smr

c: James Lianides
Board of Trustees



PORTOLA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

4575 Alpine Road • Portola Valley, CA 94028

Phone: (650) 851-1777 • Fax: (650) 851-3700 • www.pvsd.net

PVSD

Anne E. Campbell, Superintendent
Tim Hanretty, Asst. Superintendent

Board of Trustees

Donald Collat
Steven Humphreys
Judith Ann Mendelsohn
Ray Villareal
William Youstra

February 12, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Miram,

The Portola Valley School District has reviewed the 2008-09 Grand Jury Report and would like to respond to the findings regarding San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm System in San Mateo County. To respond specifically to the Grand Jury's Recommendations as they pertain to the Portola Valley School District:

Recommendation 2

Prior to the receipt of the Grand Jury report, as part of its on-going fire-preparedness training, District administrative personnel had engaged in discussion with the Fire Marshall for the Woodside Fire Protection District regarding linking the state-of-the-art fire detection and alarm systems at both Ormondale and Corte Madera Schools to an external fire alarm monitoring service. The District has received cost quotations for such a service. After a one-time set-up cost of \$1500 (total for both schools) the on-going annual cost would be \$3720 (total for both schools). The District is planning to proceed with the implementation of this service by April 10, 2009 and the cost will be reflected as a new line item in the 2009-10 budget.

At their February 11, 2009 meeting, the Governing Board of the Portola Valley Elementary School District approved this response to the Grand Jury Report on San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm System. This action will be reflected in the official minutes for this meeting. We have appreciated the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's recommendations

Very truly yours,

Anne E. Campbell
Superintendent and Secretary
to the Governing Board

San Mateo Union High School District

David Miller, Ph.D., Superintendent

Elizabeth McManus, Deputy Supt. Business Services

Matthew Biggar, Associate Supt. Instructional Services

Kirk Black, Associate Supt. Human Resources & Admin. Services



650 North Delaware Street
San Mateo, CA 94401-1795
(650) 558-2299
(650) 762-0249 FAX

February 27, 2009

The Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice, 400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

Dear Judge Miram:

On January 12, 2009, the Grand Jury of San Mateo County published its "San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems" report. We take the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations very seriously. The San Mateo Union High School District fully supports the findings of the Grand Jury.

Please find our specific findings and recommendations below which were approved by the Board of Trustees at its meeting of February 26, 2009:

FINDINGS:

1. The District agrees with the finding
2. The District agrees with the finding
3. The District agrees with the finding
4. The District agrees with the finding
5. The District agrees with the finding
6. The District agrees with the finding
7. The District agrees with the finding
8. The District agrees with the finding

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Grand Jury recommended that schools with automated alarm systems that do not have direct connections to alarm companies or local public safety agencies provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage. All San Mateo Union High School District comprehensive high schools have automated alarm systems connected directly to an alarm company. Peninsula High School, the continuation high school, has an automated alarm system which was recently connected directly to an alarm company. The District is fully compliant with the Grand Jury recommendations.

In closing, the District, on behalf of its communities and students, would like to thank the members of the Grand Jury for the work that they do to safeguard the welfare of the citizens of San Mateo County.

Sincerely,

David Miller, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Pacifica School District

375 Reina Del Mar Avenue • Pacifica, California 94044
(650) 738-6600 • (650) 557-9672 (fax)

Academic Excellence ★ Standards for Success

www.pacificasd.org

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Assistant Superintendent
Josephine Peterson
Chief Business Official



March 23, 2009

Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

RE: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Judge Miram,

The Pacifica School District is in receipt of the January 12, 2009 San Mateo Civil Grand Jury Report which contains findings and recommendations regarding San Mateo Public School First Alarm Systems. Only the second recommendation applies to the Pacifica School District:

"The Board of Trustees of the Pacifica, Las Lomitas Elementary, Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary, Portola Valley Elementary, San Carlos Elementary, San Bruno Elementary, Hillsborough City Elementary, and San Mateo-Foster City Elementary school districts have schools with automated alarm systems that do not have direct connections to alarm companies or local public safety agencies. These schools and school districts should review their policies and procedures to ensure the school's fire alarm control panel is manned by appropriately trained personnel whenever school is in session, occupied, or hosting after-hours events. Additionally, these school districts should budget for upgraded fire alarm systems to provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage."

The Pacifica Board of Trustees took action on the report on March 18, 2009. The Board agrees with the findings as they pertain to our district. However, the recommendations have not as yet been implemented. The district is researching alarm systems, options for 24-hour coverage, and costs. Staff is preparing a full report for the Board to review at the May 27th meeting. A plan for implementation will be developed and provided to the Court prior to June 12, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Vickrey".

Susan Vickrey
Superintendent

Pacifica School District

375 Reina Del Mar Avenue • Pacifica, California 94044
 (650) 738-6600 • (650) 557-9672 (fax)

Academic Excellence ★ Standards for Success

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 Kitty Mindel
 Assistant Superintendent
 Josephine Peterson
 Chief Business Official



June 3, 2009

Honorable George A. Miram
 Judge of the Superior Court
 Hall of Justice
 400 County Center, 2nd Floor
 Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Miram:

Re: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

The Pacifica School District is in receipt of the January 12, 2009 San Mateo Civil Grand Jury Report which contains findings and recommendations regarding San Mateo Public School First Alarm Systems. Only the second recommendation applies to Pacifica School District. The Grand Jury recommended

“...school districts should review their policies and procedures to ensure the school’s fire alarm control panel is manned by appropriately trained personnel whenever school is in session, occupies, or hosting after-hours events. Additionally, these school districts should budget for upgraded fire alarm systems to provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage.”

The Pacifica Board of Trustees took action agreeing with the report on March 18, 2009. The district staff researched alarm systems, options for 24-hour coverage, and costs. Staff received quotes from Bay Alarm and Pacific Auxiliary Fire Alarm.

	BAY ALARM	PACIFIC AUXILIARY FIRE ALARM (PAFA)
Installation and Programming Costs for 7 sites – Sunset Ridge, Cabrillo, IBL, Ortega, Ocean Shore, Vallemar, Linda Mar	\$2,490.00 (Notifiers are already in place at some sites, this includes installation of 6 communicators at several sites)	Notifiers - \$3774.00 Installation - \$3294.00 Total: \$7,068.00
Ongoing Monitoring	\$12,792.00 per year (This includes monitoring and 72 tests and inspections for each site)	\$2940.00 per year (Monitoring Only) \$12,506.00 (Separate Quote for System Testing and Inspections) Total: \$15,446.00 per year
Totals	\$15,282.00	\$22,514.00

At its May 6th meeting, after carefully reviewing the bids, the Pacifica Board of Trustees voted not to contract for the increased coverage at this time. Pacifica must cut approximately \$1.9 million out of a budget of \$22 million for the 2009-10 school year. The district is laying off administrators, teachers, classroom aides, and even school crossing guards in order to balance the budget for 2009-10. The district has abolished school discretionary funds and reduced funding to purchase paper and pencils.

While we appreciate the issue of improved coverage, our system is working well and the district cannot fund the increased cost at this time. The Board will move forward with the issue as soon as funding permits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Vickrey".

Susan Vickrey
Superintendent

SV:sr



Brisbane School District
One Solano Street, Brisbane, Ca 94005
Tel: 415-467-0550 Fax: 415-467-2914

Board of Trustees
Joseph Blank
Diane Crampton
Bob Dettmer
Tom Ledda
Ken Walker

Superintendent
Toni Presta

Building Thoughtful Citizens

March 11, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: Response to San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Judge Miram,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the findings of the Grand Jury. This letter serves as response from the Brisbane School District to the recommendations found therein.

Findings:

We agree with the Grand Jury's findings regarding school alarm systems.

Recommendations by the Grand Jury:

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury commended the Brisbane School District for deploying state-of-the-art fire alarm systems in advance of requirement by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property.

The recommendations the Grand Jury had for other districts to upgrade their fire alarm systems and comply with California Fire Code have already been implemented.

Sincerely,

Toni Presta
Superintendent

CC: Brisbane Board of Trustees
grandjury@sanmateocourt.org (via email)

Approved by the Brisbane Board of Trustees at the public board meeting on March 18, 2009.



LA HONDA-PESCADERO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. Box 189 • 360 Butano Cutoff, Pescadero, CA 94060
650-879-0286 • FAX 650-879-0816

Timothy A. Beard, Superintendent

April 2, 2009

The Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

RE: Grand Jury Report on San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems

Hon. Judge Miram:

This letter is in reference to the 2008-09 County Grand Jury report on Fire Alarm Systems in County public schools. La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District has considered the Grand Jury's findings and submits this letter in response to the findings and recommendations to school districts in the County.

We note an error regarding Conclusion 7 on page 4, which commends Pescadero High School for deploying a state of the art fire alarm system. Plans are being developed to upgrade the fire alarm system as a part of the modernization of our high school, but these plans have not yet been implemented.

The District has implemented an automatic fire alarm system for temporary modulars installed in 2008 at Pescadero Elementary School, Pescadero Middle School, the District kitchen and the District office. This system is directly connected to an alarm monitoring company.

Any future modernization or new construction projects which the District undertakes in our schools will meet compliance with all applicable codes including the 2007 California Fire Code.

The Grand Jury report and this response were accepted by La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District's Board of Trustees at its meeting of April 9, 2008.

The District commends the Grand Jury for its efforts to protect the safety of our students and school property. We will keep the findings of this report in mind as we upgrade our schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Beard", written over a light-colored background.

Timothy A. Beard,
District Superintendent

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Russ Hanley

William J. Henderson Jr.

Kevin J. Martinez

James Prescott



ADMINISTRATION

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Superintendent

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Assistant Superintendent
Lynn Orong
Chief Business Officer

April 10, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram, Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: San Bruno Park School District

Dear Judge Miram:

In accordance with the 2008-2009 Grand Jury report, dated January 12, 2009, enclosed please find our "Response to Recommendation" which was approved by our Board of Trustees on April 8, 2009.

An e-mail of this letter, as well as a copy of the Response to Recommendation" is being forwarded this date to grandjury@sanmateocourt.org.

If anything further is required, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



David E. Hutt
Superintendent

DEH:cm

C: Jennifer Blanco, Clerk, Governing Board

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Superintendent
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Assistant Superintendent
Karen H. Schenck
Assistant Superintendent
Lynn Orong
Chief Business Officer

Response to Recommendation

The respondent agrees with the finding.

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, dependent upon identification of a suitable system of notification.

In consulting with local Fire and Police agencies they are not staffed nor currently equipped to provide continuous surveillance monitoring. Subsequently an independent vendor to monitor adequate protection would represent a new expense to the District. Currently, such expenditure would represent a "competing interest" for limited fiscal resources.



Jennifer Blanco
Clerk, San Bruno Park School District
Governing Board

April 8, 2009

Date



SAN CARLOS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Steven G. Mitrovich, Superintendent
Kelly L. Price, Chief Business Official
Tom Green, Ed.D., Director of Educational Services

826 Chestnut Street
San Carlos, CA 94070
Voice: (650) 508-7333
Fax: (650) 508-7340
www.sancharlos.k12.ca.us

To: Honorable John L. Grandsaert
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center-2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

From: San Carlos School District
Steven G. Mitrovich, Superintendent
826 Chestnut Street
San Carlos, CA 94070

Date: March 12, 2009

RE: Response to San Mateo County Grand Jury Report: Fire Alarm Systems
in San Mateo County

Finding 1:

The San Carlos School District agrees with the finding.

Recommendation (2):

The San Carlos School District agrees with the finding and will consider budgeting for this item after the 2009-2010 school year.

Approved at March 12, 2009 Board meeting.



San Mateo-Foster City School District

April 14, 2009

Superior Court of San Mateo County
Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center
2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

RE: San Mateo Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Hon. George A. Miram,

The San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees approved the attached response during our public Board Meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2009.

Sincerely,

Pendery A. Clark, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board of Trustees:

Jack E. Coyne, Jr.
Mark D. Hudak
Lory Lorimer Lawson
Cathy Rincon
Colleen Sullivan

Superintendent:
Pendery A. Clark, Ed.D.

CC: Board of Trustees, San Mateo-Foster City School District
Dr. Jean Holbrook, County Superintendent of Schools
Micaela Ochoa, Chief Business Official
Carlos Ortiz, Director of Maintenance and Operations
Al Solis, Director of Facilities

1170 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404
(650) 312-7700
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San Mateo-Foster City School District
1170 Chess Drive • Foster City • California • 94404
Office (650) 312-7777 • Fax (650) 312-7736

March 11, 2009

Superior Court of San Mateo County
Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center
2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

RE: San Mateo Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Hon. George A. Miram:

Per your request in your letter dated January 12, 2009, the San Mateo-Foster City School District's Response to the Grand Jury report filed on January 12, 2009 are noted below.

San Mateo-Foster City School District's Response to Findings

The San Mateo-Foster City School District (District) agrees with the following:

- Finding 1.a.i.ii
- Finding 1.b
- Finding 1.c
- Finding 2
- Finding 3

The Grand Jury Requests that the District agree or disagree with all findings, the District respectfully notes that it is not in a position to agree, or disagree, with the following findings:

- Finding 4
- Finding 5
- Finding 6
- Finding 7
- Finding 8
- Finding 9
- Finding 10

Dr. Pendery Clark, Superintendent of Schools

Cathy Rincon

Jack E. Coyne

Colleen Sullivan

Mark D. Hudak

Lory L. Lawson



San Mateo-Foster City School District
1170 Chess Drive • Foster City • California • 94404
Office (650) 312-7777 • Fax (650) 312-7736

San Mateo-Foster City School District's Response to Recommendations

Response to Recommendation #1:

The District cannot respond to this recommendation as we are independent from the Districts noted in recommendation #1.

Response to Recommendation #2:

The recommendation to review our policies and procedures to ensure the school's fire alarm control panel is manned by appropriately trained personnel whenever school is in session, occupied, or hosting after-hours events requires further analysis as this would require significant financial resources. With the passage of Measure L, the District is investigating the feasibility of implementing fire alarm systems that provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365 day coverage.

Response to Recommendation #3:

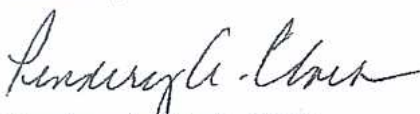
The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The timeline will be determined during the execution of the Facility Master Plan in the next 6 months.

Response to Recommendation #4

The District cannot respond to this recommendation as we are independent from the Districts noted in recommendation #4.

Please contact Micaela Ochoa, Chief Business Official, at 650.312.7274 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


Pendery A. Clark, Ed.D.
Superintendent

CC: Board of Trustees, San Mateo-Foster City School District
Dr. Jean Holbrook, County Superintendent of Schools
Micaela Ochoa, Chief Business Official
Carlos Ortiz, Director of Maintenance and Operations
Al Solis, Director of Facilities

Dr. Pendery Clark, Superintendent of Schools

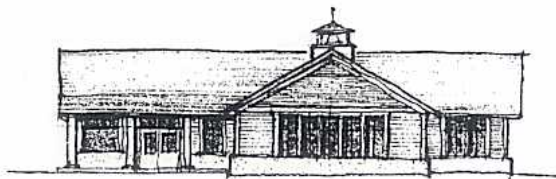
Cathy Rincon

Jack E. Coyne

Colleen Sullivan

Mark D. Hudak

Lory L. Lawson



Woodside Elementary School District
3195 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062
650-851-1571 – fax: 650-851-5577
www.woodside.k12.ca.us

February 10, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Miram,

The Woodside Elementary School District Governing Board has received the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding reporting requirements for fire alarm systems in San Mateo County Schools.

The Governing Board agrees with the findings of the Grand Jury and acknowledges the Grand Jury's commendation for our District's deployment of a state-of-the-art fire alarm system in advance of requirements set forth by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond regarding this important issue.

Very truly yours,

Karen Werner
Karen Werner, President
Governing Board of the
Woodside Elementary School District

BAYSHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ONE MARTIN STREET, DALY CITY, CA 94014
TEL: 415-467-5443 FAX: 415-467-1542

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Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1665

RE: Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Judge Miram:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the findings of the Grand Jury. This letter serves as the response of the Bayshore Elementary School District to the report recommendations.

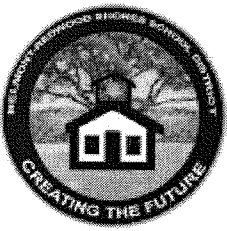
We agree with the Grand Jury's findings regarding school alarm systems. We appreciate the commendation for Bayshore School and acknowledge that no recommendation from the report pertains to Bayshore School or Garnet J. Robertson Intermediate School in our District. The age of our facilities and the absence of improvements triggering compliance with the current code have not occurred.

This Grand Jury Report was accepted and the response approved by the Bayshore Elementary School District Board of Education trustees at it's meeting on this date.

Sincerely,



Norman D. Fobert, M.A., J.D.
Superintendent



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Superintendent

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Educational Services and Personnel*

Nellie Hungerford
*Assistant Superintendent,
Business Services and Operations*

CENTRAL SCHOOL
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650-637-4820

CIPRIANI SCHOOL
Maria Lang-Gavidia, Principal
2525 Buena Vista Avenue, Belmont
650-637-4840

FOX SCHOOL
Chris Marchetti, Principal
3100 St. James Road, Belmont
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NESBIT SCHOOL
Cherie Ho, Principal
500 Biddulph Way, Belmont
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RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
Jennifer Kollmann, Principal
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SANDPIPER SCHOOL
Linda McDaniel, Principal
801 Redwood Shores Parkway
Redwood City, CA 94065
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**Belmont-Redwood Shores
School District**
2960 Hallmark Drive
Belmont, CA 94002-2999
650-637-4800 - Main
650-637-4811 - Fax

<http://www.belmont.k12.ca.us>

April 10, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Judge Miram:

The Belmont-Redwood Shores School District (BRSSD) is in receipt of the January 12, 2009, San Mateo Civil Grand Jury Report which contains findings and recommendations regarding the upgrading of public school fire alarm systems.

The Belmont-Redwood Shores School District agrees with the finding that all Districts should comply with SB575 when modernizing campuses or building new ones. At this time BRSSD does not have modernization funding available for upgrades and the District is not seeking to pass a bond for modernization in the near future. Until such time modernization funding is secured, the District will continue to comply with all fire code regulations established prior to SB575. All current systems are annually inspected and kept in excellent repair. In addition, staff members are appropriately trained to man the alarm control panel at each site.

In response to the Civil Grand Jury report, the Board of Trustees at the March 19, 2009 meeting, instructed staff to conduct a feasibility study on two items: 1) cost to upgrade the fire alarm systems to a SB575 compliant automated fire alarm system, and 2) cost to connect the existing systems to a third party alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage. The information obtained will be presented to the Board of Trustees on May 21st for further discussion and possible action.

Sincerely,


Dr. Emerita Orta-Camilleri



Administrative Offices
1011 Altschul Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 854-2880

Las Lomas School
299 Alameda de las Pulgas
Atherton, CA 94027
(650) 854-5900

La Entrada School
2200 Sharon Road
Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 854-3962

April 16, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Judge Miram,

At the Regular Meeting of March 11, 2009, the Governing Board of the Las Lomas Elementary School District took formal action to approve unanimously the submittal of the following response to the January 12, 2009 Civil Grand Jury Report: "San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems."

Superintendent Eric Hartwig signed the original letter, which was mailed to your office on March 12, 2009. We forward this revision to include the details of the Governing Board Meeting at which the action was taken. The text of the original letter follows below.

I am pleased to submit the response of the Las Lomas School District to the January 12, 2009 report of the Civil Grand Jury entitled "San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report."

With respect to the *Findings* of the report, we are in agreement with all of them.

With respect to the *Recommendations* of the report, only *Recommendation #2* pertains to the Las Lomas School District: "...these schools and school districts should review their policies and procedures to ensure the school's fire alarm control panel is manned by appropriately trained personnel whenever school is in session, occupied, or hosting after hours events.

This recommendation has been carried out with appropriate administrative, custodial, maintenance and volunteer staff so that monitoring of the fire panel during school use can be improved. However, it is our opinion that it is impossible to ensure that the fire panel is actively manned for each and every minute that the school is occupied; for example, if the gym is in use on a Saturday, to staff hired to open, close, and clean the facility cannot carry out those duties while simultaneously monitoring the fire panel in the main office.

Therefore, the Las Lomas District intends to comply with the second recommendation in *Recommendation #2*, "Additionally these school districts should budget for upgraded fire alarm systems to provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage." LLESD will budget the funds necessary to ensure that the fire panels at the two public schools in our district are connected to a monitoring service by the opening of school in August, 2009.

Yours,

Eric Hartwig
Eric Hartwig
Superintendent
by Karen Hart



Millbrae School District

555 Richmond Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030

650-697-5693 • 650-697-6865 (fax) • <http://www.millbraeschooldistrict.org>

SHIRLEY MARTIN
Superintendent

NANCY PALMER
Chief Business Official

SHARON DE BIAGIO
Director of Curriculum

BRIAN INGLESBY
Director of Student Services

April 27, 2009

Approved by Board of Trustees
At Meeting Held April 27, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Miram:

The Millbrae School District is in receipt of the Grand Jury Report of January 12, 2009 which contains findings and recommendations regarding the Public School Fire Alarm System.

In response to the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations, the Millbrae School District submits the following:


1. Recommendations:

The Board of Trustees of the Ravenswood City Elementary, Millbrae Elementary, Bayshore Elementary, and San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School Districts, which have schools in the process of upgrading their fire alarm systems or are planning to upgrade, should ensure compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.

District Response:

The Millbrae School District agrees with the Findings. The Millbrae School District is in the process of, or planning to, upgrade its fire alarm systems and will ensure compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.

Thank you,


Shirley Martin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

ms

CABRILLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

498 Kelly Avenue • Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 • (650) 712-7100 • Fax (650) 726-0279

SUPERINTENDENT
Robert Gaskill

GOVERNING BOARD
Charles Gardner
John Moseley
Kirk Riemer
Jolanda Schreurs
Dwight Wilson

April 6, 2009

Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Following are responses from Cabrillo Unified School District regarding the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from this report, dated January 12, 2009:

Findings

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury found that:

1. School alarm systems can be broadly categorized into three types, manual systems, addressable systems, and automated systems.
 - a) Manual systems consist of manual pull stations or smoke detectors that trigger an audible alarm on campus. Schools that use manual pull fire alarm systems are mapped into building zones, which are major sections of a school campus.
 - i) In the lowest standard of the manual pull fire alarm systems allowed by law, data about the specific location of the trouble spot is not transmitted to any location on a campus. When an alarm sounds, school personnel use phones or intercom systems to communicate with each other regarding the location and nature of the problem.
 - ii) In more sophisticated manual fire alarm systems, an indication appears in the school office fire panel that identifies the building zone where the alarm was pulled. This zone indicator makes it easier and faster to direct fire personnel to the critical location.
 - b) Addressable systems are those that when an alarm is activated, a campus-wide alarm sounds and data is transmitted to a fire panel in a central location on campus, typically the school office. The data includes the type of alarm and exact location of the trouble (building, wing, classroom number, location within the classroom). A

designated staff member responsible for monitoring the fire panel confirms the alarm as an emergency and calls "911".

c) Automated alarm systems, also known as "smart" systems, have a direct connection fire or police department. If an alarm is triggered, the audible alarm is sounded to a certified 24-hour supervising station at an off-site alarm company or to a on campus and the alarm information is automatically transmitted to the school's contracted alarm company. If an authorized staff member at the school determines that no assistance is needed, the alarm can be canceled within 30 seconds. If not cancelled, the alarm company immediately contacts County Public Safety Communications, which provides exact location information and dispatches the nearest fire engine to the scene of the fire.

District Response: We concur with the above system descriptions.

2. Schools with construction approved prior to January 2008 are not required to upgrade their fire alarm systems as long as the equipment can pass an annual fire inspection or until new construction occurs that is valued over \$200,000. Fire alarm system upgrades can be limited to the buildings that undergo the upgraded construction or new buildings.

District Response: We concur with this finding.

3. Manual alarm systems are allowed to exist in schools where there is no construction or until parts for repair to the fire system are no longer available.

District Response: We concur with this finding.

4. All of the county's large high school districts (San Mateo Union, Jefferson Union, Sequoia Union, and South San Francisco Unified) have automated systems with direct connections to alarm companies.

District Response: We do not have the first-hand knowledge to either concur with, or dispute, this finding.

5. Half Moon Bay High School in the Cabrillo Unified School District has a manual system with no plans to upgrade.

District Response: The newer two-story science and art wing at Half Moon Bay High School has a fully automated alarm system. All other buildings on the high school site have manual systems in place.

6. Fifty percent of elementary and middle schools have automated systems with direct connections to alarm companies. Forty-five percent have either automated systems *without* direct connection to alarm companies or a manual system with plans in place to upgrade.

District Response: We do not have the first-hand knowledge to either concur with, or dispute, this finding.

7. Schools with automated systems but no direct connection to an alarm company are only required to have the fire alarm panel in the school office manned during normal school hours. However, most schools host after-hours events, such as musical performances and sporting events, and not all schools man the fire alarm panel during these after-hours events. Risk of injury and death is increased during these functions if there is a significant delay in school personnel arriving at the fire panel to determine the location and severity in the event of a fire.

District Response: We concur with this finding.

8. Three schools in the Belmont-Redwood Shores District (Cipriani, Fox, and Central) and four schools in the Cabrillo Unified School District (Farallone View, El Granada, Hatch and Kings Mountain) are on manual pull fire alarm systems with no plans for upgrading or converting their fire alarm systems to automated or addressable systems. The fire alarm systems in these schools are technologically less advanced than those with automated alarms.

District Response: We do not have the first-hand knowledge to either concur with, or dispute, this finding.

9. Schools with manual systems or automated systems without direct connection to an off-site alarm company must rely upon neighbors or passers-by to contact "911" in the event of a fire that might occur during nights, weekends, or school holidays. Unoccupied, these schools assume greater risk of large-scale fire damage.

District Response: We concur with this finding.

10. Annual costs for utilizing an off-site supervising station ranged from as little as \$450 to \$6,800 per year.

District Response: We do not have the first-hand knowledge to either concur with, or dispute, this finding at this time. We will study costs associated with off-site supervising stations as part of our feasibility study.

Conclusions

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury concludes that:

1. The adequacy of the fire alarm systems in San Mateo County schools varies among the schools and school districts.

District Response: We do not have the first-hand knowledge to either concur with, or

dispute, this conclusion.

2. Schools are responsible for installing and updating school safety systems to minimize the possibility of loss of life and/or property due to fires.

District Response: We generally concur with this conclusion. We also concur with Grand Jury findings #2 and #3 above and conclusion #3 below. Our alarm equipment is code-compliant, is fully operational, and time-tested. The equipment is used on a regular basis in conducting safety drills at all of our school sites. The recommended feasibility report will help this District determine how much optional “updating” it can afford to do.

3. All the schools have a fire alarm system that complies with the California State statutes in effect when the buildings were constructed. This is the case whether the school has a manual, addressable, or automated system.

District Response: We concur with this conclusion.

4. Schools with manual systems are at greater risk for injury or property damage due to fire because they do not provide the additional functionality of identifying the exact location of a fire. This increases the time needed for the fire department to arrive at the exact fire location.

District Response: We assume this to be correct but we have yet to experience a single malfunction of our system or instance where the use of a manual system contributed to bodily injury or property loss.

5. For a relatively low cost, an upgraded fire alarm system can provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage.

District Response: We do not have the first-hand knowledge to either concur with, or dispute, this conclusion at this time. We will study costs associated with direct connections to alarm companies as part of our feasibility study.

6. All the large high school districts and the majority of elementary schools have fire alarm systems with direct connections to alarm companies and are fully compliant with the codes governing schools with construction from 2008 forward.

District Response: We do not have the first-hand knowledge to either concur with, or dispute, this conclusion.

7. The Grand Jury commends the following schools and school districts for deploying state-of-the-art fire alarm systems in advance of requirement by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property...

District Response: We concur with this conclusion.

8. Schools with automated alarm systems but without direct connection to an off-site alarm company have already made the major investment in the equipment and construction necessary for state-of-the-art fire protection. Without a direct connection to an alarm company, these schools are at risk from potential delays in summoning emergency assistance during school hours and, particularly, during after-hours school events. In addition, the likelihood of large-scale property damage is much greater in the event of a fire on a weekend, late night, or during a school vacation period, since there is no automatic link to emergency resources. A direct connection to an alarm company, for an incremental investment, would advance these schools to the level of protection specified in the 2007 California Fire Code.

District Response: We concur with this conclusion.

Recommendations

The 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The Boards of Trustees of the Belmont-Redwood Shores and Cabrillo Unified School Districts perform a feasibility study and provide, within 90 days, plans for upgrading or converting their manual pull station fire alarm systems to automated systems.

District Response: We concur with this recommendation. A feasibility study was prepared and presented to the Cabrillo Unified School District Board of Education, in conjunction with this Grand Jury response, at the regularly scheduled meeting held on March 12, 2009.

2. The Boards of Trustees of the Pacifica, Las Lomas Elementary, Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary, Portola Valley Elementary, San Carlos Elementary, San Bruno Elementary, Hillsborough City Elementary, and San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School Districts have schools with automated alarm systems that do not have direct connections to alarm companies or local public safety agencies. These schools and school districts should review their policies and procedures to ensure the school's fire alarm control panel is manned by appropriately trained personnel whenever school is in session, occupied, or hosting after-hours events. Additionally, these school districts should budget for upgraded fire alarm systems to provide direct connections to an alarm company or public safety agency for 24-hour, 365-day coverage.

District Response: This recommendation does not apply to the Cabrillo Unified School District.

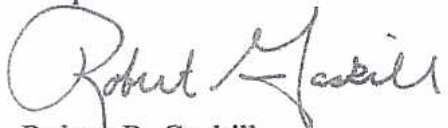
3. The Boards of Trustees of the Ravenswood City Elementary, Millbrae Elementary, Bayshore Elementary, and San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School Districts, which have schools in the process of upgrading their fire alarm systems or planning to upgrade, should ensure compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.

District Response: This recommendation does not apply to the Cabrillo Unified School District.

4. The Boards of Trustees of the Cabrillo Unified and the La Honda-Pescadero Unified School Districts, which have schools under modernization construction, should ensure compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.

District Response: We concur with the recommendation and will take all necessary steps to ensure full compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code related to our new construction and modernization work at Cunha Intermediate.

Respondent for the Cabrillo Unified School District:



Robert B. Gaskill
District Superintendent

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

SITE	CODE COMPLIANT	MANUAL AUTO	DIRECT CONNECT TO ALARM COMPANY	DEDICATED PHONE LINE AND YEARLY MONITORING SERVICES	ONE-TIME CONSTRUCTION COST
High School	Yes	Auto	No	\$600.00 / Year	Dedicated Phone line TBD
Cunha	Yes	Part Auto Part Manual	No	\$600.00 / Year	\$57,100.00
Hatch	Yes	Manual	No	\$600.00 / Year	\$62,400.00
EL Granada	Yes	Manual	No	\$600.00 / Year	\$83,600.00
Farallone View	Yes	Manual	No	\$600.00 / Year	\$57,800.00
Kings Mountain	Yes	Manual	No	\$600.00 / Year	\$26,200.00
Total				\$3,600.00 / Year	\$287,100.00

*THE COST FOR CONVERSION MAY BE AS MUCH AS 20 – 40% LOW DUE TO MANY FACTORS. SEE NARRATIVE



South San Francisco Unified School District

398 B Street, South San Francisco CA 94080
(650)877-8700 / Fax (650)583-4717

SUPERINTENDENT
Barbara Olds

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Judy Bush
Maurice Goodman
Shirlee Hoch
Liza Normandy
Philip J. Weise

The South San Francisco Unified School District Board of Trustees approved the following response at the March 26, 2009, Board Meeting:

Response to San Mateo County Grand Jury Report
San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems

Finding 1:

Classification of school fire alarm systems...

SSFUSD Response: **Agrees**

Finding 2:

Schools with construction approved prior to January 2008...

SSFUSD Response: **Agrees**

Finding 3:

Manual alarm systems are allowed to exist in schools where there is no construction or until parts for repair to the fire system are no longer available.

SSFUSD Response: **N/A**

Finding 4:

All of the county's large high school districts have automated systems with direct connections to alarm companies.

SSFUSD Response: **Agrees**

Finding 5:

Half Moon Bay High School has a manual system with no plans to upgrade.

SSFUSD Response: **N/A**

Finding 6:

Fifty percent of elementary and middle schools have automated systems with direct connections to alarm companies. Forty-five percent have either automated systems without direct connection to alarm companies or a manual system with plans in place to upgrade.

SSFUSD Response: **N/A**

Finding 7:

Schools with automated systems but no direct connection to an alarm company are only required...

SSFUSD Response: **Agrees**

Finding 8:

Schools in Belmont Redwood Shores District and Cabrillo Unified School District...

SSFUSD Response: **N/A**

Finding 9:

Schools with manual systems or automated systems without direct connection to an offsite alarm company must rely upon neighbors or passers-by to contact "911" in the event of a fire...

SSFUSD Response: **Agrees**

Finding 10:

Annual costs for utilizing an off-site supervising station ranged from as little as \$450 to \$6,800 per year.

SSFUSD Response: **Agrees**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None of the four (4) recommendations apply to the South San Francisco Unified School District.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Olds
Superintendent



Liza Normandy
President, Board of Trustees



*Jefferson School District
Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center
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(650) 746-2400 • Fax (650) 997-0273
Web Address: www.jsd.k12.ca.us*

*Governing Board
Marie Brizuela
Adam Duran
Hans E. Hansen
K. Annette Hipona
Marianne E. Petroni*

*Superintendent
Matteo Rizzo*

February 12, 2009

Hon. George A. Miriam
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, Second Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Re: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Your Honor:

Regarding the findings and recommendations of the 2008-2009 San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury in the above referenced report, Jefferson Elementary School District responds as follows:

Findings:

1. Jefferson Elementary School District agrees with the Report's findings, as they pertain to our District.

Recommendations:


1. Jefferson Elementary School District, as indicated on Page 4 of the Report (Conclusions, Item 7), has already implemented state-of-the-art fire alarm systems in advance of the requirements by the State Fire Code. See attached copies of questionnaire submitted to the Grand Jury on September 24, 2008.

These responses have been approved by our Board of Trustees at a public meeting held on February 11, 2009.

Copies of this response have been placed as follows:

1. Via email to grandjury@sanmateocourt.org
2. Clerk of the Board of Trustees, Jefferson Elementary School District

Respectfully,


Matteo Rizzo
Superintendent

Encl: Grand Jury Fire Alarm System Questionnaires

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is interested in learning more about school Emergency fire alarm systems in the San Mateo County Public School Districts. Please make copies of this form and provide the following information for **each** school in your district.

Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Benjamin Franklin Intermediate School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

Please return all forms **no later than 9-30-08** to: Meredith Monica, Chairperson, Education Committee, San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury.

In care of: Mas Chikasuye
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

or Fax-650-363-4698 or e-mail mchikasuye@sanmateocourt.org

Thank you.

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is interested in learning more about school Emergency fire alarm systems in the San Mateo County Public School Districts. Please make copies of this form and provide the following information for **each** school in your district.

Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Christopher Columbus Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

Please return all forms **no later than 9-30-08** to: Meredith Monica, Chairperson,
Education Committee, San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury.

In care of: Mas Chikasuye
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

or Fax-650-363-4698 or e-mail mchikasuye@sanmateocourt.org

Thank you.

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is interested in learning more about school Emergency fire alarm systems in the San Mateo County Public School Districts. Please make copies of this form and provide the following information for **each** school in your district.

Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Colma Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?
Simplex system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

Please return all forms **no later than 9-30-08** to: Meredith Monica, Chairperson, Education Committee, San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury.

In care of: Mas Chikasuye
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

or Fax-650-363-4698 or e-mail mchikasuye@sanmateocourt.org

Thank you.

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is interested in learning more about school Emergency fire alarm systems in the San Mateo County Public School Districts. Please make copies of this form and provide the following information for **each** school in your district.

Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance &
Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Daniel Webster Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Franklin D. Roosevelt Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

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The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Fernando Rivera Intermediate School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

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The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: General Pershing School (State Preschool)

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance &
Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Garden Village Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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Thank you.

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

The San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury is interested in learning more about school Emergency fire alarm systems in the San Mateo County Public School Districts. Please make copies of this form and provide the following information for **each** school in your district.

Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance &
Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: George Washington Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? (*An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.*) If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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Thank you.

San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance &
Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: John F. Kennedy Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? (*An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.*) If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Marjorie H. Tobias Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury, Education Committee Questionnaire

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance &
Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Margaret Pauline Brown Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? (*An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.*) If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

Farady MPC1500 addressable system. Connected to AEC monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Susan B. Anthony Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?
Simplex 4020 addressable system. Connected to Simplex monitoring.
The system covers all buildings.

3. If not an automatic alarm system, briefly describe your system. Not applicable

4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Thomas Edison Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

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4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

5. If not an automatic alarm system, are there plans to upgrade the system? When? Are you aware of the potential availability of grants or other financial assistance to help fund the alarm system upgrades? If so, where would you go for assistance? Not applicable

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Thomas R. Pollicita Middle School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? (*An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.*) If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

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4. If not an automatic alarm system, please describe your process for notifying the fire department in the event of an on-campus fire or other emergency. Not applicable

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Westlake Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

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Name and Title of respondent: Rick Young, Director, Maintenance & Operations Date 09/24/08

1. School Name: Woodrow Wilson Elementary School

2. Does the school have an automatic fire alarm system? *(An automatic alarm system, which is sometimes referred to as "smart" or "addressable", includes a system of automatic smoke detectors divided into alarm zones which transmits alarm and zone information to an approved supervising station.)* If so, is it directly connected to a fire alarm company? Which one? Does it cover all buildings on campus?

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Thank you.



District Office
181 Encinal Avenue
Atherton, California 94027
650-321-7140
FAX: 650-321-7184
www.mpcsd.org

Board of Education
Mark Box
Jeff Child
Deborah Fitz
Maria Hilton
Laura Rich

*A Community of educators, scholars, parents and staff working together
to inspire, serve, challenge and enrich all students*

Kenneth Ranella,
Superintendent

April 25, 2009

Jo Sauer Mitchell,
Asst.Supt/Curriculum &
Instruction

Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Diane White,
Chief Business Official

Re: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Olivia Mandilk,
Dir. Of Student Services

Following is the response to the request from the 2008-09 San Mateo County Grand Jury regarding the issue: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems.

Jim Bowlby
Dir. Of Technology

In response to the investigation of the Grand Jury regarding "Public School Fire Alarm Systems," Supervisor of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Dennis Hatfield completed and returned the survey provided by the Grand Jury regarding this topic.

Kathryn Tinio,
Human Resources

It was noted in the report of the San Mateo County Grand Jury received in this office January 13, 2009, that the Menlo Park City School District was commended by the Grand Jury for deploying state-of-the-art fire alarm systems in advance of the requirement by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property.

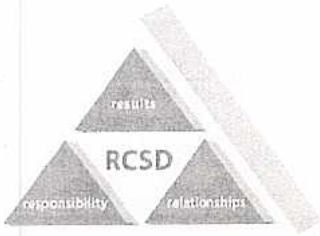
Ahmad Sheikholeslami
Facility Program Manager

Dennis Hatfield
Supervisor Maintenance,
Transportation,
Operations

As the District received the commendation of the Grand Jury and no recommendations were made, the District inadvertently failed to provide the Grand Jury with its response to this topic prior to the April 13, 2009, due date. Please accept this response that the Menlo Park City School District agrees with the findings of the 2008-09 Grand Jury. This matter will be brought before the Governing Board at its May 12, 2009, Regular Meeting.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Ranella
Superintendent



Ravenswood City School District
2120 Euclid Avenue, East Palo Alto, California 94303
(650) 329-2800 Fax (650) 323-1072

Board Members:
M. F. Chester Palesoo , President
Larry Moody, Vice President
Marcelino López, Clerk
John Bostic, Member
Jacqueline Wallace Greene, Member

María M. De La Vega
Superintendent

"OUR CHILDREN - OUR FUTURE"

May 1, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Honorable George A. Miram

RE: Response to San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the findings of the Grand Jury. This letter serves as response from the Ravenswood City School District to the recommendations found therein.

Recommendation:

The Boards of Trustees of the Ravenswood City Elementary which have schools in the process of upgrading their fire alarm systems or planning to upgrade, should ensure compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.

District Response:

The School District presented the grand jury report at its April 23, 2009 Board Meeting. The Board accepted the grand jury report, agreed with its findings, and recommended to staff to update its fire alarm system plan in ensuring compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code.

We welcomed the grand jury in submitting their report and appreciate our opportunity to respond and update our plans. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Maria De La Vega
Superintendent



**BURLINGAME
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Board of Trustees

Michael Barber
Marc J. Friedman
Liz Gindraux
Mark G. Intrieri
Gregory Land

District Administration

Dianne Talarico
Superintendent

Suzanne Hall, Ed.D.
*Assistant Superintendent,
Curriculum & Instruction*

Robert Clark, Ed.D.
*Assistant Superintendent,
Chief Business Official*

Lourdes S. Desai
*Director, Special Education &
Categorical Programs*

29 April 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

RE: San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report

Dear Sir:

The respondent agrees with the finding. The Burlingame School District maintains a state-of-the-art fire alarm system in advance of the requirement by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property.

The response was approved by the Board of Trustees at the April 28, 2009 Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Robert Clark, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent/Chief Business Official



Jefferson Union High School District

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – SERRAMONTE DEL REY
699 Serramonte Boulevard, Suite 100
Daly City, CA 94015-4132
650-550-7900 • FAX 650-550-7888

Board of Trustees

Maria S. Luna
Jeanne L. Matysiak
David K. Mineta
Thomas A. Nuris
Katherine C. Zarate

Michael J. Crilly
Superintendent

May 20, 2009

The Honorable George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Dear Judge Miram:

Our apologies to the San Mateo County Grand Jury—we did not respond because we were not cited in the recommendation, but were recognized by way of a commendation for our fire alarm systems. We mistakenly believed it was not necessary to respond.

The following is the Jefferson Union High School District's response to the Grand Jury Report on San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems.

The Jefferson Union High School District was commended in this report for deploying state-of-the-art fire alarm systems in advance of requirements by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property. The District agrees with the findings and recommendations of the report regarding public school fire alarm systems. We, as a District, will continue to upgrade and refine our fire alarm systems as we add new buildings.

This response was approved by the Board of Trustees during their regular meeting of May 19, 2009.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Crilly

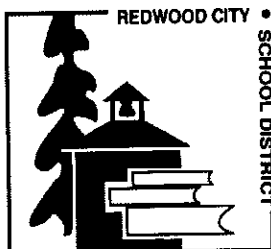
Michael J. Crilly
Superintendent

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

750 Bradford Street • Redwood City • CA 94063 (650) 423-2200 FAX: (650) 423-2204

Board of Education

Maria Diaz-Slocum, President
Dennis McBride, Vice President
Alisa MacAvoy, Clerk
Hilary Paulson
Shelly Masur



Superintendent
Jan Christensen

October 7, 2009

Hon. George A. Miram
Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
400 County Center; 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063-1655

Judge Miram:

The Redwood City School District has reviewed the 2008-2009 Grand Jury report regarding the Public School Fire Alarm Systems and agrees with their findings. The response was approved by the School Board at the February 11, 2009 board meeting.

By way of substantiation, please find enclosed both the pertinent Board memorandum as well as a copy of the minutes of the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (650) 423-2230.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan Christensen".

Jan Christensen
Superintendent

Jc:cc
09.33
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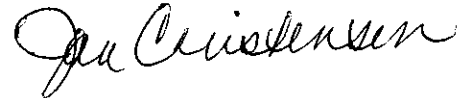
REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REDWOOD CITY, CA

RCSD MEMORANDUM 9.5 (2008-2009)

FEBRUARY 11, 2009

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: JAN CHRISTENSEN, SUPERINTENDENT



SUBJECT: AGREEMENT WITH GRAND JURY FINDINGS, SAN MATEO COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS REPORT

RCSD Goal: Ensure that all students are prepared to be successful in high school and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board agree with the findings of the San Mateo County Grand Jury on the San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report.

PERTINENT FACTS:

On January 12, 2009, the 2008-2009 San Mateo County Grand Jury filed a report regarding fire alarm systems in schools.

The Grand Jury commended the Redwood City School District for deploying state-of-the-art fire alarm systems in advance of requirement by the State Fire Code for the protection of students and public school property.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

Attachment

Prepared and Approved by Jan Christensen, Superintendent

REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Redwood City, California

APPROVED MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

February 11, 2009

1. Call to Order

Vice President McBride called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, 750 Bradford Street, Redwood City.

Present at the Board Meeting: President Maria Diaz-Slocum, Trustees Alisa MacAvoy, Shelly Masur, Dennis McBride, Hilary Paulson, and Superintendent Jan Christensen

Others present: John Baker, Raul Parungao, Patricia McRae, Naomi Hunter, Anna Lague, Jane Yuster, Don Dias, Joe Siam Sonya Dineen, Marcia Boone, Jim Coffmann, Rosemarie Perez

2. Welcome

At 7:01 p.m. Vice President McBride welcomed those present. He explained that President Diaz-Slocum has laryngitis so he will be president pro tem. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Changes to the Agenda

Trustee Masur requested that Item 10.1 be moved to consent items.

4. Approval of Agenda

On motion by Trustee Paulson, seconded by Trustee Masur, and by unanimous vote, the Board approved the agenda as amended.

5. Community/Staff Recognition

None.

6. Oral Communication

None.

7. School/Community Reports

7.1 Report on Child Nutrition Services

Anna Lague, Director of Child Nutrition Services, reported on the district's food service program for students.

Discussion was held regarding increasing the price for full pay breakfasts and lunches.

8. Discussion Items

8.1 District Budget Development, 2009-2010

Superintendent Christensen stated that the district is closely monitoring what the state and federal governments are doing regarding budgets.

Raul Parungao, CBO, reported on the process for developing the 2009-2010 budget. He presented 6 different budget scenarios for board consideration.

Board discussion was held regarding maintaining the percentage for the district's reserve.

Mr. Parungao reported that the Financial Advisory Committee would be meeting in late February to identify \$5 million in district budget cuts. Mr. Parungao expressed concern about the state budget not being finalized and the negative impact to the district.

9. Consent Items

On motion by Trustee MacAvoy, seconded by Trustee Masur, and by unanimous vote, the Board approved the consent items, taking the following action:

- 9.1 Recommendation re: Approval of January 14, 2009 Board Minutes
- 9.2 Recommendation re: Approval of January 21, 2009 Board Minutes
- 9.3 Recommendation re: Ratification of Warrant Register, December 16, 2008 - January 22, 2009 – enclosed
- 9.4 Recommendation re: Acceptance of Donations
- 9.5 Recommendation re: Approval of Grand Jury Report on San Mateo County Public School Fire Alarm Systems Report
- 9.6 Recommendation re: Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and Sequoia Union High School District, Math summer Institute
- 9.7 Recommendation re: Approval Field Trip to Water, Año Nuevo State Park, Roosevelt
- 9.8 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip to Water, MSI, Cloud, Grade 1
- 9.9 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip to Water, MSI, Cloud, Grade 2
- 9.10 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip to Water, MSI, Cloud, Grade 3
- 9.11 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip to Water, MSI, Cloud, Grade 4
- 9.12 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip to Water, MSI, Cloud, Grade 5

- 9.13 Recommendation re: Approval of Extended Hours Field Trip for Kennedy and MIT Schools, Grand Canyon-Havasu
- 9.14 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip to Water, MSI, Hawes
- 9.15 Recommendation re: Approval of Field Trip to Water, MSI, Hawes
- 9.16 Recommendation re: Approval of Amendment to Superintendent's Contract, 2008-2009
- 9.17 Recommendation re: Approval of Superintendent's Contract, 2009-2012
- 9.18 Recommendation re: Acceptance of Grant from Oracle
- 10.1 Recommendation re: Approval of Agreement with Schoolwires, Inc.

10. Action Items

10.2 Recommendation re: Adoption of Resolution 8, Behavior Intervention Plans (Hughes Bill) Mandated Cost Claim Settlement and Agreement to Waive Future Claims

On motion by Trustee McBride, seconded by Trustee Masur, and by unanimous vote, the board adopted Resolution 8, Behavior Intervention Plans (Hughes Bill) Mandated Cost Claim Settlement and Agreement to Waive Future Claims as submitted.

10.3 Recommendation re: Approval of Agreement with John W. Gardner Center, Youth Data Archives

Following board discussion, the board requested that the Agreement be amended with the following changes:

1. Data should be encrypted and sent secured to the John W. Gardner Center.
2. As soon as data is transferred, the disk should be destroyed.
3. The Superintendent is the only district person who can change or add names to the district list on the agreement.

On motion by Trustee MacAvoy, seconded by President Diaz-Slocum, and by majority vote, (Trustee Paulson voted no because she did not have the complete wording of the agreement; and Trustee Masur abstained because she is an employee of the John W. Gardner Center), the board approved the agreement with the John W. Gardner Center for the Youth Data Archives.

10.4 Recommendation re: Approval of Roosevelt School Calendar

Sonia Dineen, principal, reported on the process Roosevelt used to survey parents and staff regarding the possibility of going to a traditional year calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. She reported that 94 percent of the parent surveys were returned and 65 percent of the parents voted for a traditional calendar.

Marcia Boone, teacher, expressed concern about the year round calendar for this school year and support for going to a traditional calendar.

Jim Coffmann, School Site Council member, expressed support for a traditional year calendar at Roosevelt School.

On motion by Trustee Paulson, seconded by Trustee Masur, and by unanimous vote, the board approved the proposal of Roosevelt School to return to the traditional school calendar for the 2009-2010 school year.

At 8:58 a.m. the board recessed; the board reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

11. Board and Superintendent Reports

11.1 Report from Board Members and Superintendent

Trustee Masur reported she visited the Fair Oaks Clinic that had been remodeled. She reported 100 students visit the clinic daily.

Trustee Masur complimented the Community School report given at the Redwood City 2020 meeting this morning.

Trustee Paulson reported on the Redwood City/San Mateo County Golden Apple Award Ceremony. She reported that the Hayes Architects and the Pacific Athletic Club won awards.

Trustee Paulson complimented Orion on its author event.

Trustee Paulson reported on her involvement sorting essays and artwork for the Redwood City Education Foundation's contest.

Trustee MacAvoy reported she facilitated seven phone banks to survey the support for a district parcel tax.

Trustee MacAvoy complimented Dr. Jean Holbrook, County Superintendent, who attended a news conference sponsored by Senator Jackie Speier.

President Diaz-Slocum reported that the Garfield Charter School board unanimously voted to withdraw the petition to renew the Garfield charter. She stated that Garfield would come back as a school within the district effective July 1, 2009.

Trustee McBride complimented Orion on its author event.

Trustee McBride reported on the community budget meeting held last Wednesday night.

Trustee McBride complimented Naomi Hunter and Joe Siam for the new district website.

Trustee McBride expressed appreciation to Trustee MacAvoy for her hard work organizing and leading the feasibility survey phone banks.

Superintendent Christensen reported she and Mr. Parungao are continuing to meet with school staff at lunch.

Superintendent Christensen reported that she had established a meeting with Garfield staff on February 18 and Garfield parents on February 19 to discuss establishing a transition team to support Garfield coming back to the district.

Superintendent Christensen reported that she attended the Kennedy Square Bowl.

Superintendent Christensen reported that the Feasibility Team would be meeting next week to review the Godbe polling data. She announced that a representative from Tramutola and a representative from Godbe and Associates would report to the board at the February 25 board meeting.

Superintendent Christensen reported that she would set appointments with President Diaz-Slocum, and Trustees Masur and Paulson to review the polling data.

12. Information

12.1 San Mateo County Office of Education Review of the RCSD First Interim Financial Report, 2008-2009

The board received information on the County Office's review of the district's First Interim Financial Report for 2008-2009.

12.2 Data Report Boys Versus Girls Academic Performance on CST

The board received information on the comparison of boys versus girls on the California Standards tests for English language arts and math.

12.3 K-6 Math Adoption Process Update

Patricia McRae, Assistant Superintendent, reported that the district is moving ahead with the K-6 math adoption.

13. Correspondence

None.

14. Other Business/Suggested Items for Future Agendas

President pro tem McBride suggested that the board review the job duties of key district staff to evaluate the workload. He expressed concern that some district staff had been overloaded.

15. Board Agenda Calendar

15.1 Changes to Board Agenda Schedule

Board received information that a special board meeting has been scheduled for March 4, 2009 at the district office.

16. Closed Session

None.

17. Adjournment

On motion by Trustee Masur, seconded by Trustee MacAvoy, and by unanimous vote, the board adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Alisa MacAvoy, Clerk