



Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

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July 5, 2005

The Honorable Judge Anderson
Superior Court
1100 Superior Court 1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Dear Judge Anderson:

On May 24, 2005 I received a request from Mr. Charles Foley, Foreperson of the 2004-2005 Civil Grand Jury, to respond to a Grand Jury report involving the Santa Barbara County Community Schools. Specifically I was requested to respond to Finding 4, Recommendation 4.

Response to Finding 4: While it is not within the purview of Bill Cirone, Superintendent of Schools for Santa Barbara County, to evaluate the adequacy of school facilities in the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, likewise it is not within my purview to do the same in the Santa Barbara County Community Schools.

Fitzgerald School, the Community School provided by the Santa Barbara County Schools Office, offers a valuable service to a decidedly at-risk and transient population of students, most of whom have failed to be successful in our district and our feeder districts. For many years, we have enjoyed a strong and positive partnership with Fitzgerald school. On a rare occasion, Fitzgerald has been temporarily unable to accept every at-risk student we would like to send them. However, it must be noted these occasions are, by far, the exception and certainly not the rule, nor should they suggest the need for significantly large facilities as the grand jury report suggests.

Our district's working relationship with the county schools has always been a strong collaborative one and will continue to be into the future.

Respectfully

Jeffrey N. Hearn, Ph.D.
Superintendent

JNH:cd