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OCT 18 2011

BY: _____

October 17, 2010

To: The Santa Barbara County Civil Grand Jury

From: Greg Pruitt, Supt./Prin.
Vista Del Mar USD

RE: Response to "Where is the Truancy Program in Santa Barbara County"

Per your report, Vista Del Mar School District has been asked to respond to Recommendation 1c, 1d, and 2b.

First, let me remind the Civil Grand Jury that Vista's enrollment is 101 in grades K-8. As a result of our smallness and the fact that our average class size is 12 with one class at each grade, our staff stays in close contact with all parents and students. Over the past 12 years, since I've been Supt./Prin., I've only had one student who did not respond to my local efforts to improve his/her attendance pattern. My next step was to refer both student and parents to our local Board of Education for further encouragement. We were successful in turning things around. With this background in mind, let me respond to each of the recommendations listed for us.

Response to 1c:

I would be more than happy to work cooperatively with all the agencies listed to develop a countywide program as long as there is no cost to our district since we do not have a problem with truancies.

Response to 1d:

If the need arises, Vista Del Mar would cooperate in providing truancy enforcement for any and all students that need such enforcement and we would be willing to pay for said services on a case by case basis but not on a ADA basis since our need is almost zero.

Response to 2b:

Because of our size, past lack of need for services, and our past effective means of dealing with our local issues, we would not want to allocate monies to pay for other districts. We would be willing to pay a set cost for individual cases and maybe this is a way the County should proceed as opposed to charging all districts for the inability of some to handle their own truancy issues.

Respectfully,
Greg Pruitt, Supt./Prin.
Vista Del Mar, USD