



San Lucas

Union School District

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San Lucas School is a safe, educational environment with a proactive, collaborative staff working cohesively to provide experiential and discovery-based learning with high expectations for everyone to prepare for success in higher levels of education and in life.

Monterey County Civil Grand Jury
Office of the County Counsel
168 West Alisal Street, 3rd Floor
Salinas, California 93901-2439

Dear Charles J. McKee;

The San Lucas Union School District received the Grand Jury final report titled "School Boards make a Difference, Improving Education: The Role of the Local School Boards". We have reviewed the report and its findings. Our responses follow.

Response to the Findings (F1-F8):

F-1; The District agrees with this finding.

F-2; The District agrees with this finding.

F-3; The District partially agrees with this finding. The San Lucas Union School District Board of Trustees believes it is effectively governing the local school district.

F-4; The District partially agrees with this finding. The San Lucas Union School District Board of Trustees acknowledges there is some room for improvement in the realm of providing more complete public information as to the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees. However, the Board of Trustees do believe they have a strong commitment to public education and feel their years of voluntary service and in-house development of new educational policies provides sufficient understanding of how to appropriately govern.

F-5; The District partially agrees with this finding. The Board of Trustees believes in adhering to best practices in governance. However the Board of Trustees feels training and professional development should be voluntary and at the personal abilities of individual Board members.

F-6; The District agrees with this finding so long as the independence and autonomy of the individual school district is not imposed upon.

F-7; The District agrees with this finding.

F-8; The District does not agree with this finding. The San Lucas Union School District makes every effort to communicate with its district stakeholders.

Response to the Recommendations (R1-R6):

R-1; The District is open to the possibility of adopting a policy to commit to the National School Board Association best practices but needs a full and complete copy of these policies and time to review and consider their relevancy to the unique situation of the District.

R-2; The District will not be implementing this recommendation. San Lucas Union School District is a very small, rural district in a small remote area of Monterey County. They have a difficult time finding eligible community members to volunteer to participate on the Board of Trustees. Creating additional requirements of initial training would be intimidating to potential members and create another barrier to finding willing participants. When members are found, they are long term and dedicated. The San Lucas School District does provide voluntary training opportunities and in-house training for new members.

Additionally, the Board of Trustee positions are voluntary. There is no financial aid to members for their time and commitment to being on the Board of Trustees, participating in the monthly meetings, and shouldering the responsibilities of such a position. As such, mandatory on-going training would create a hardship on Trustee's time and finances.

R-3; The District already does this. It is part of the Local Control and Accountability process.

R-4; The District already does this. It is part of the Local Control and Accountability plan.

R-5; The District will abide by this recommendation. Over the course of the next school year, the District will make improvements to the website to provide clearer more accessible information on Board roles and responsibilities.

R-6; The District is willing to abide by this recommendation if the District ever receives multiple candidates for an open Board seat.

Please accept this as the required response to the Grand Jury report. If you have any further questions or requirements, please feel free to contact the school district at 831-382-4426 or in writing to the address above.

Sincerely,



Nicole Hester
San Lucas Union School District
Superintendent/Principal