



**Butte  
County**  
Office of Education  
"WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST"

**Tim Taylor**  
Superintendent  
ttaylor@bcoe.org

Mia Osborne-Ng  
Sr. Executive Assistant  
mng@bcoe.org

#### Board of Education

*Amy Christianson  
Ryne Johnson  
Jeannine MacKay  
Brenda J. McLaughlin  
Roger Steel  
Betty Vassar  
Mike Walsh*

1859 Bird Street  
Oroville, CA 95965  
(530) 532-5761  
Fax (530) 532-5762  
<http://www.bcoe.org>

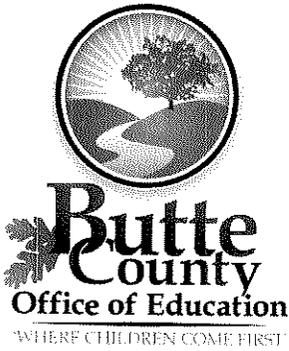
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# MEMORANDUM

Superior Court of California  
County of Butte  
SEP 24 2014  
Honorable Plener, Clerk  
By *Kristen Lucena*

Date: September 1, 2014  
To: The Honorable Kristen Lucena  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Butte  
From: Tim Taylor, Superintendent  
RE: Responses to the 2013-14 Butte County Grand Jury Report

Please find attached the Butte County Office of Education responses to the 2013-14 Grand Jury Report.



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## GRAND JURY REPORT RESPONSES 2013-14

### BUTTE COUNTY JUVENILE HALL AND TABLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933 and § 933.05, the following **responses** are required:

Butte County Office of Education Superintendent: a response to Finding F2, F3, and F5 through F7.

**F2 The Grand Jury was impressed with educational and social development opportunities available to the juveniles.**

**Response:** The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent thanks the Butte County Grand Jury for recognizing the educational and social development opportunities available to the juveniles. Principal Karen Stiles and her staff work closely with Butte County Probation and have worked hard to address literacy, writing and high school graduation for all.

**F3 BCOE/TMS has an established partnership with Butte Community College to provide opportunities for students to enroll and earn college credits.**

**Response:** The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent confirms the established partnership with Butte Community College providing students on-line courses to begin their college experience, and completed the first year of student enrollment with success. This unique collaboration is one of the few juvenile hall programs in California that provides college courses for incarcerated youth. Butte County Probation should be commended for their progressive leadership on behalf of youth.

**F5 The educational curriculum at TMS combines core classes with programs that identify and reinforce positive social skills.**

**Response:** The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent thanks the Butte County Grand Jury for recognizing the educational curriculum at Table Mountain School as a combination core study and reinforcement of positive social skills.

**F6 The TMS staff is highly committed to helping students achieve success in school and in their future lives beyond incarceration.**

**Response:** The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent appreciates the recognition by the Butte County Grand Jury for commending the Table Mountain School staff on their passion and dedication to helping their student achieve success in school and in their future lives beyond incarceration.

**BUTTE COUNTY JUVENILE HALL AND TABLE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL (con't)**

**F7**            **Students have the opportunity to share stories and poems with incarcerated students in other areas of the state.**

**Response:**    The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent acknowledges the fortune in employing not only highly qualified staff, but staff that brings out the best in the juveniles. The writing program created by Erin Gruwell and now famous by the "Freedom Writers" movie, encouraged Butte County juveniles to take a leap toward creativity, and has become a successful outlet for many students.

**2013-14 SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933 and § 933.05, the following responses are required:

**A response to Finding F1 through F4 and Recommendation R1 through R4 from the following:**

- Butte County Office of Education Superintendent
- Bangor Union Elementary School District
- Feather Falls Union Elementary School District
- Golden Feather Union School District
- Pioneer Union Elementary School District

**F1**            **School district websites are a good source for information to the public regarding activities, academics, and other relevant information.**

**Response:**    The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent agrees with the Butte County Grand Jury finding that school district websites are a good source for information to the public regarding activities, academics, and other relevant information. The Butte County Office of Education website was updated in July, 2013 and has been commended by the public for its user friendly access and information it provides to the community.

**R1**            **All school districts should complete the development of their websites and keep them current.**

**Response:**    The Butte County Office of Education website is current and up to date. The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent will work with the local school districts to ensure their information on the county website is up to date.

**F2**            **Potential volunteers must complete and pay for state mandated requirement (background check, fingerprinting, TB testing) prior to working with students.**

**Response:**    The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent agrees with the Butte County Grand Jury finding that potential volunteers must complete and pay for state mandated requirements prior to working with students. All volunteers are fingerprinted in order to work in schools run by Butte County Office of Education.

**R2**            **The school districts should assist with the cost of qualifying volunteers to work on the school campus.**

**Response:**    Volunteers who work in Butte County Office of Education schools do not pay for the cost of qualifying to work. The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent will work with the school districts to help assist with the cost of qualifying volunteers in district schools.

**2013-14 SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS (con't)**

**F3 State and Federal funding for preschool programs has been limited in recent years.**

**Response:** The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent agrees that the funding for preschool programs has been limited in recent years. However, he is encouraged that the state is beginning to fund more slots for preschool.

**R3 School districts should provide preschool programs.**

**Response:** Currently the State of California does not provide adequate funding for small rural schools and preschool is not mandated to be offered by the school districts. The state has not addressed how to fund preschools in small rural schools who have limited numbers of preschoolers available in their area to attend. The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent has addressed this with the California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, as have other small, rural Superintendents in California.

**F4 When law enforcement questions arise, staff does not have a dedicated deputy sheriff to contact.**

**Response:** The Butte County Office of Education Superintendent agrees that school districts do not have dedicated deputy sheriff to contact when law enforcement questions arise.

**R4 The Butte County Sheriff's Department should assign a designated deputy position to each of the small rural school districts to be of assistance in possible emergency situations and to develop relationships with students, staff, and parents.**

**Response:** Assigning a deputy to each of these schools is not fiscally feasible as enrollment is extremely small. However, the Butte County Office of Education Superintendent continues to work with the Butte County school districts to develop cohesive safety plans for campus protection. This effort involves partnering with the Butte County Sheriff, Butte County Fire, and local fire and police. All 14 school districts in Butte County are reviewing new school safety communication systems that include state of the art capacities. This will provide our districts with better tools to work with local law enforcement and fire agencies.

**PERSONAL NOTE:**

Thank you for the opportunity to address the comments and provide recommendations to your report. This task has allowed me to personally acknowledge the great efforts that take place daily, and by so many in the community to support the educational goals of our Butte County students.

Respectfully submitted:



Tim Taylor, Superintendent  
Butte County Office of Education