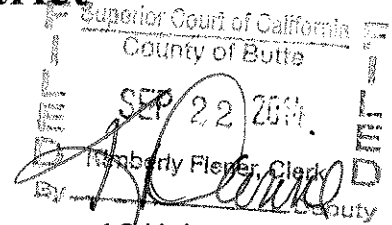


Bangor Union Elementary School District

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September 18, 2014



Small Rural School Districts: Grand Jury Report Responses 13/14

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 Bangor Union Elementary

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

Response: BUESD agrees that school district websites are outstanding sources of information for our school community, and a wonderful way to promote and market your school. Bangor switched web hosting providers during the 2013-2014 school year so there were some transitional issues getting the new site up and operational. This new site does contain more information and is more user friendly. Some families in our rural community still lack internet access.

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

Response: The BUESD web site is now current and up to date. It is maintained by a teacher on staff with students having a significant role in updating the site. The state continues to add requirements of information and data to be posted to district web sites.

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

Response: BUESD agrees with the Butte County Grand Jury finding that potential volunteers must complete state mandated requirements prior to working with students. All volunteers who work with or around children anytime beyond or outside the direct supervision of school staff are fingerprinted in order to work.

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

Response: Volunteers who work for BUESD do not pay for the cost of qualifying to work. These costs for both FBI and DOJ fingerprints are borne by the district. Although fingerprints are done by Live Scan and are turned around very quickly, the costs for fingerprinting volunteers are expensive, close to \$80 each.

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

Response: BUSED agrees that the funding for preschool programs run by both federal programs (Head Start) and state preschool has been limited in recent years. However, with an improving state budget, the state is beginning to fund more slots for preschool.

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

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 variable numbers of preschoolers available in their area to attend. With limited budgets and fluctuating numbers, rural districts who have had preschools have had these programs eliminated. Bangor was not successful in getting fiscal support for a BCOE administered state preschool and Head Start cancelled their program in 2013 after 2 years in operation. Although Bangor is again providing a parent cooperative model preschool, is it a burden on an overstretched school staff.

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

Response: BUESD strongly agrees that school districts do not have dedicated deputy sheriff to contact when law enforcement questions arise. The exchange of information between law enforcement and school regarding violence and criminal issues within our school communities is non-existent.

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 BUESD Superintendent strongly believes that a deputy should be assigned as a liaison to the small rural communities and the Butte County Sheriff should be more active in working with the Butte County school districts to develop cohesive safety plans for campus protection. The Sheriff Department has been very responsive in responding to requests for service from Bangor Elementary.

PERSONAL NOTE:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the comments and provide recommendations to your report. It was a pleasure to work with the Grand Jury, and it is hoped that this collaborative effort will help improve the educational experience for all students in the small rural school districts in the county.

Respectfully Submitted:



**Paul Arnold, Superintendent/Principal
Bangor Union Elementary School District**