



Gregory Blake
Superintendent
gblake@thermalito.org

Board of Trustees

Tori Anderson
Darlene Fultz
Brenda Ielati
Gail Shields
Alicia Walker

400 Grand Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-2900
Fax (530) 538-2908
www.thermalito.org

July 17, 2017

Superior Court of California
County of Butte
JUL 27 2017
Kimberly Flener, Clerk
By *[Signature]* Deputy

Hon. Robert A. Glusman, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Butte
One Court Street
Oroville, CA 95965

Dear Judge Glusman,

Please accept this letter as the responses to the Grand Jury report findings and recommendations.

Finding 1: The school district does not have sufficient employees to support the language needs and diversity of the community.

Recommendation: The district should actively recruit staff who reflect the language diversity of the student population as job openings occur.

TUESD Response: We agree with the finding and have implemented steps to find staff to meet the language needs of the community. We continue to advertise many positions as "bilingual preferred" to recruit qualified bilingual staff to fill our vacancies. In some cases we fail to find qualified bilingual staff and must fill our vacancies without bilingual personnel.

Finding 2: Academic achievement as indicated by test scores across content areas remains below state averages for virtually all student groups attending TUESD schools.

Recommendation: The district should explore similar schools with accelerated academic growth and adopt strategies to address the persistent concern of low test scores by the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

TUESD Response: We agree with the finding and have implemented intervention programs and other academic strategies to improve academic achievement. To name a few, we fund Reading intervention and EL intervention teachers at all school sites and provide

"In a safe and respectful environment, we inspire, educate, and challenge our students, empowering them to succeed in an ever-changing world."

bilingual para-educators to support our students. We adopted iReady, a reading and mathematics diagnostic program that adapts to the individual levels of students as well as iLit, a reading program to help students gain reading grade level proficiency. We will continue to research and consider other specific academic programs from other schools and districts that have seen significant academic growth from similar student populations.

Finding 3: The district does not have adequate support for the variety of technology-based needs.

Recommendation: The district should hire a technology person or contract with an agency for support no later than the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

TUESD Response: We agree with the finding and have already implemented solutions to improve our technology support. We contract with the Butte County Office of Education for networking support and separately for academic support. We "buy" time from their employees to provide specific academic trainings to our staff members. We are going to continue and potentially expand this practice during the 2017-2018 school year.

Finding 4: Parental involvement, a critical element especially for low-income and EL students, is a concern throughout the district.

Recommendation: The district should develop an outreach program to encourage parent participation by the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

TUESD Response: We agree with the finding and will implement the recommendation. With our classified (CSEA) unit, we have been actively writing a "District Parent Coordinator" job description. This person will be responsible for developing an outreach program and connecting our district to the school community and parents through regular and social media and will update our websites as well as be the liaison between the district and the community. We see this position as integral to our district and its mission to connect the schools to our community.

Sincerely,



Gregory Blake
Superintendent