

August 12, 2019

The Honorable Judge Paul Haakenson
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Pat Randolph, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Haakenson and Foreperson Randolph:

The San Rafael City Schools (SRCS) Board of Education, together with Jim Hogeboom, Superintendent, acknowledge the efforts of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury for highlighting the importance of keeping our students safe in the greater Marin community, outlined in its report dated May 23, 2019, titled "School Resource Officers Revisited." Attached please find the requested response to the recommendations (R1, R2, R9, R10, R11) from the San Rafael City Schools Board.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our public schools and the safety of Marin county's youth.

Sincerely,

Greg Knell
Board of Education President

Jim Hogeboom
Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION

- R1:** SRO Programs in Marin County should be retained or expanded where they now exist. SRO programs should be established to cover those school districts where they do not exist.

Response

This recommendation has been implemented.

San Rafael City Schools currently has an SRO program with the San Rafael Police Department (SRPD) and expects it to be retained. Additionally, a portion of SRCS falls within the jurisdiction of the Marin County Sheriff, and therefore, we also participate in their SRO program.

Furthermore, in July 2019, SRCS submitted an application to the State of California for its Department of Justice Tobacco Grant Program. The most significant aspect of the grant application was to seek funds to hire an additional SRPD SRO and to build the capacity of SROs. The grant requested the funds for four years, the maximum amount allowed. The application was submitted with the support of SRPD. The status is pending.

RECOMMENDATION

- R2:** Municipalities, school districts, and law enforcement agencies in Marin County should make SRO programs a high budgetary priority.

Response:

This recommendation requires further analysis.

Our district understands that the safety and security of our students is our primary responsibility and a very high priority. We are always willing to work with our local partners to support that priority. This is evident in our efforts to seek grant funds through the California Tobacco Grant Program in partnership with the SRPD, as previously described.

If the grant is not funded, SRCS will need to reconsider if funding the expansion of the program is possible given budget constraints. We will, however, continue to work with the Marin County Office of Education and law enforcement partners to determine any other grant funding that may be available.

A status report will be provided by November 23, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

- R9:** School districts should take the lead in working with their city councils and law enforcement agencies to employ and maintain a sufficient number of SRO's.

Response:

This recommendation has been implemented.

*San Rafael City Schools Board of Education:
Greg Knell, President; Maika Llorens Gulati, Vice President; Linda Jackson; Rachel Kertz; Natu Tuatagaloa*

SRCS currently receives SRO services in partnership with the San Rafael Police Department and Marin County Sheriff's Office. Furthermore, SRCS has taken the lead to expand our SRO program through our grant application to the California Tobacco Grant Program, through partnership with the SRPD, as previously described.

RECOMMENDATION

R10: School districts and municipalities should explore funding sources such as grants, bond issues, special taxes and other sources.

Response:

This recommendation is being implemented.

We agree with the Grand Jury's recommendation to seek additional resources as appropriate. As previously described, SRCS recently submitted an application for the California Tobacco Grant Program in partnership with the SRPD to expand our SRO program.

This could also include participating in countywide funding opportunities for school security. We will continue to collaborate with the Marin County Office of Education to identify and apply for grant funding for school safety and security.

RECOMMENDATION

R11: School districts and municipalities should consider sharing the costs and services of SRO Programs.

Response:

This recommendation requires further analysis.

The safety, health and well-being of our students and staff is a foremost priority for SRCS and we are always willing to work with our local partners to support that priority. At the current time, without obtaining grant funding, budget constraints may prevent us from committing funds to a SRO program. However, we will continue to work with school districts countywide, the Marin County Office of Education and law enforcement partners to explore the potential for new funding.

An update will be provided by November 23, 2019.