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**To:** Curt Dubost <[cdubost@pasoschools.org](mailto:cdubost@pasoschools.org)>, Brad Pawlowski <[bpawlowski@pasoschools.org](mailto:bpawlowski@pasoschools.org)>

**Subject:** 4A Foundation response to SLO County Grand Jury report

Superintendent Curt DuBost,

The board of directors for the 4A Foundation for the Paso Robles Schools is responding to certain inaccuracies in the San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury report titled "PASO ROBLES SCHOOL DISTRICT: A CAUTIONARY TALE" which was released in November of 2020. We would also like to take this opportunity to update the current status of the funds raised for the aquatic center and our intent moving forward.

The 4A Foundation is not "used to fund extracurricular activities". Per our mission statement "The 4A Foundation for Paso Robles Schools is designed to support our student's continual improvement and success by providing funding through community investment and partnerships in our four pillars of academics, arts, agriculture and athletics." We consider the foundation's role to be integral in supporting the efforts of the school district to enhance the student experience in and out of the classroom. The role of accepting funds for the aquatic center allows the community to make tax-favored donations towards the joint effort to construct the aquatic center.

While there has not been an independent audit of the aquatic center funds received by the 4A Foundation, we have identified and accounted for funds received and the board leadership of SWIM PASO is in agreement with the amount confirmed. It is correct that none of these funds received towards the aquatic center have been spent on the effort to build the structure or anything else.

Over the last two years, the district and the 4A Foundation have gone through a series of changes that have slowed the effort to raise funds for the aquatic center. However, we would like to point out in that time the Swim Paso Association has been created as a separate nonprofit entity. Part of their mission is to continue to raise funds for the aquatic center. The 4A Foundation looks forward to partnering with them in this effort. As a board we believe there remains strong community support for this effort; however, efforts have been hindered by the indecision on the part of the district on how to move forward along with the recent COVID-19 restrictions.

Concerning the 4A Foundation, specifically regarding the aquatic center funds, there was a recommendation for a "comprehensive audit and report made available to the public of 4A Foundation funds that were dedicated to the aquatic complex construction." As stated above, The 4A Foundation, SWIM PASO, and district leadership have agreed on the amount raised and those funds are separate from the Foundation's general fund financial accounts. A comprehensive audit from an outside firm is disproportionately expensive to the amount raised and unnecessary at this time.

Given the grand jury report, the 4A Foundation board of directors has agreed to hire an outside bookkeeper to verify our transactions and prepare a report for the district administration and

public to review. We do not plan to take any additional action unless a request is made directly to us by the district or the Board of Trustees.

Best regards,

Jeff Railsback, Chairperson  
The 4A Foundation for Paso Schools