

LUCIA MAR UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Press Release

Today the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury released its report regarding the District's handling of the possible reassignment of district principals in February 2007.

The Board agrees that the events reviewed by the Grand Jury have hurt our community. Moreover, the Board recognizes and acknowledges that this matter could and should have been handled better, and it is the Board's collective resolve to reflect on and learn from these events. This reflection will include a careful review of the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations. More importantly, however, the Board has already committed to training, upon the hiring a new Superintendent, to learn methods, practices and techniques to improve our skills as a governance team. Just as we ask of our students and staff, the Board is committed to its own learning, growth, and development to better serve the community.

Although the Board and the Administration acknowledge that mistakes were made, the Board has been and continues to be committed to compliance with the Brown Act, and encourages the valuable participation of its constituents at Board meetings. The District is committed to fully complying with all laws, including the Brown Act. The District understands it is a public institution and it is committed to the principles of open government as envisioned by the Brown Act.

While most of the Board's business is and should be conducted in sessions open to the public, the law allows certain items to be discussed in a closed session for legitimate and important public policy reasons. Specifically, a closed session may be held to evaluate district employees. Permitting such discussions in a closed session protects the free and candid discussion necessary for the Board and administration to effectively govern and conduct district business on sensitive personnel matters. As a result, the District respectfully disagrees with the Grand Jury and does not believe it would be appropriate or wise to disclose its closed sessions discussions regarding these events.

Most importantly, the Board does not believe that such disclosure would help our community do what we most need: to heal the current divisions and focus on the academic achievement of our students. In addition, the Board and the District Administration are committed to working collaboratively with each other to ensure that our school site administrators continue to have the support and resources to do the vital work with which they, and our teachers and staff, are charged.

When time permits, the District will provide the public with a more detailed response to the Grand Jury's report.

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May 31, 2007

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
474-3000, EXT 1080