

Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District

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Governing Board

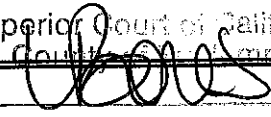
Patricia Pollock • Paul Spring - Clerk

Scott Follmer • Guy Hendersen - President • Robert Lennen

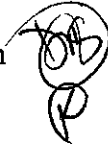
FILED

SEP 21 2016

Superior Court of California
County of Tuolumne

By:  Clerk

Judge of the Superior Court
Honorable Donald Segerstrom
41 W. Yaney Avenue
Sonora, CA 95370



September 6, 2016

Dear Honorable Judge Donald Segerstrom,

I am responding to the Grand Jury report dated July 12, 2016, which included an investigation of education related items, namely compliance with the Brown Act and school reorganization. I have reviewed the report and recommendations, and have a response from the Big Oak Flat/Groveland USD.

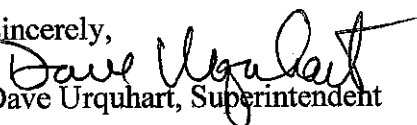
First, we have not had an issue with the Brown Act and follow the Brown Act at our monthly Board of Trustees meetings.

Secondly, as far as reorganization goes, the Big Oak Flat/Groveland USD (BOFG USD) became its own entity in 1989 determined by a popular vote following all guidelines. I was not in the district at that time, but am aware that this geographic area separated from the Sonora Union High School District and formed its own district with three schools: Tenaya Elementary, Tioga High School and Don Pedro High School. There is also a community school, Moccasin Community School. The geography of the county and the separation of concern and acknowledgement between the central area of Tuolumne County and the BOFG USD made this reorganization possible. And, it makes sense. Having worked here for four plus years, I definitely notice the separation, the need for identity and local support of this area having its own school district.

Further, having BOFG USD consider becoming part of another school district in Tuolumne County does not serve the students of this district educationally or financially. We participate in as many of the shared services as we can – purchasing cooperatives, information and network technology cooperatives, Joint Powers Authority, instructional services and professional development cooperatives, and sharing personnel (we just ended a two year arrangement of sharing a CBO with the County Schools Office).

This community has strength and cohesiveness as a school district. It would not serve our students well to go back to pre-1989 days and have an arrangement that sets our students at a disadvantage because of the same geography and lack of acknowledgement that allowed BOFG USD to become its own district in 1989.

Sincerely,


Dave Urquhart, Superintendent