



MARIN COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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MARY JANE BURKE
MARIN COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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November 24, 2014

The Honorable James Ritchie
Presiding Judge
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

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

Your Honor and Mr. Foreperson:

As promised in my response to the findings and recommendations of the Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report **School Suspension: Less is More** that was sent on May 15, 2014, I am writing to provide an update regarding the Marin County Office of Education actions since May, 2014 related to the Recommendations of the Grand Jury.

The foundation of the actions that have been, currently are and will be taking place is to approach the issue countywide. This is often a model in Marin County where many school districts are small and do not have the resources and/or personnel to address issues on a district by district basis. It is also true that existing organizations, partnerships and community agencies are often used as appropriate.

In the issues related to the Grand Jury's report, it was decided that the structure of the Marin County School/Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) would be employed. This body, co-chaired by the Marin County Superintendent of Schools and the Marin County Sheriff, is composed of school administrators, law enforcement agency leaders and staff from community agencies who, among other areas, often deal with issues of student attendance, suspensions and expulsions.

To date, here are some of the highlights of specific events that have taken place:

- On August 27, 2014, information was provided to SLEP concerning the Grand Jury's report on School Suspensions and recommendations regarding Restorative Practices (see Attachments #1 and #2). It was decided to appoint a subcommittee to review the report and determine how best to address the Grand Jury recommendations.
- The subcommittee met on October 14, 2014 (see Attachment #3). Participants identified current best practices in reducing suspensions, utilizing restorative models and encouraging positive school attendance. The subcommittee also generated a list of new programs and options from other counties that will be explored for discussion at the next meeting. The subcommittee will continue to meet on a regular basis.

Update to the Marin County Civil Grand Jury
November 24, 2014
Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools
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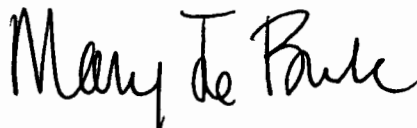
- The next meeting is scheduled on December 3, 2014. The subcommittee made its first report to SLEP on October 22, 2014. (See Attachments #4 and #5).
- On October 6, 2014, a workshop providing "A Review of Procedures and Requirements for Conducting School Attendance Review Board" (SARB) was held at the Marin County Office of Education. (See Attachment #6). Topics included a review of the legal authority and current Education Code including alternative interventions.
- On October 28, 2014, a workshop "Update on New Laws: Supporting Student Engagement" was held for middle/high school administrators. Panelists included the Northern California Staff Attorney for Education Equity of the American Civil Liberties Union. (See Attachment #7). Changes in Education Code 48900k were specifically reviewed.
- On March 26, 2015, the "Marin County Summit on Keeping Students in School" has been scheduled. This countywide event will address best practices in attendance improvement, reduction of suspension/expulsion and alternatives including restorative practices.

In addition to these specific activities, school district superintendents have been kept advised about the changes in the laws (California Education Code 48900) and the implications for policy and regulation changes and disciplinary practices within their schools. This information has been a part of the Superintendents' Day on the first Wednesday of the month as well as districts working with their own legal counsels.

The good news is that much has been done and much more will be accomplished in the future. This is one of those instances where it is best if we come together as "one" countywide school district to plan for informing, training and preparing staff members from all districts who in turn will educate their own districts. Countywide collaboration and coordination are the key to ensure that all schools are up-to-date regarding policies, updated regulations, current parent/student handbooks and best practices for keeping students in school. We have made progress since the Grand Jury Report. We recognize there is more to do.

Over the years, the engagement of the Grand Jury with areas concerning public education has been truly valued. It is further evidence of the focus of our community on doing what is best for ALL students to ensure that they have quality educational opportunities and experiences. Our students, teachers, administrators, parents, trustees and the general community are improved by the work of the Marin Civil Grand Jury.

Sincerely,



MARY JANE BURKE
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

MARIN COUNTY

SCHOOL/LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP



Wednesday, August 27, 2014
3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Marin County Office of Education
Community Room

MEETING AGENDA

- ❖ **Welcome/Introductions**
- ❖ **Update – School Districts and Law Enforcement Agencies**
- ❖ **Presentation:** Emergency Preparedness for School Partnerships
– Marin County Office of Education Director, Mike Grant
- ◆ **Information/Announcements**
 - Updated Marin County School Activity Calendar 2014-2015
 - Follow up to Grand Jury Report on Restorative Practices
 - *Marin's Community School* – Grand Opening
September 9, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Training/Events**
 - Human Trafficking and Child Abduction
September 14, 2014 – noon to 5:00 p.m.
 - Camp Chance/Spirit of San Rafael Event
September 25, 2014
 - Collaborative Strategies to End Family Violence in Marin
October 1, 2014 - 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - Annual School Attendance Review Board Training
October 6, 2014 - 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
 - California Healthy Kids Survey Analysis for School Administrators
October 6, 2014 - 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 - California Healthy Kids Survey Overview for Parents
October 6, 2014 - 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
 - Beyond Differences Positive Online Behavior for Middle and High School Students
October 23, 2014
 - Update on New Education Laws
October 28, 2014 - 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
 - Peer Summit XIX
November 18, 2014 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 22, 2014, Marin County Office of Education**
- ◆ **Adjourn**

Marin County School / Law Enforcement Partnership

2014-2015

**Subcommittee on Marin County Grand Jury Recommendations
Regarding School Suspensions and Restorative Practices**

ROSTER

Bay Area Community Resources, Clinical Director Laura Kantorowski

Dixie School District Assistant Principal, Peter Stuart

Judge William Stephens, Retired

Marin County Office of Education, Director Lisa Schwartz

Marin County Office of Education, Principal Karen Allen

Marin County Probation VORP/Mediation Services, Marissa Wertheimer

Mill Valley Schools Assistant Principal, Mark Nelson

North Bay Security Founder, Bill Welch

Novato School District, Assistant Principal James Larson

Novato Unified School District, Director Lynn Erikson

San Rafael City Schools, Senior Director Amy Baer

San Rafael Police Department, School Resource Officer David Casalnuovo

San Rafael Police Department, Youth Service Bureau Director Rebecca Kuga

Shoreline Unified School District, Principal Adam Jennings

Twin Cities Health Cities Coalition, Project Manager Linda Henn

YMCA Youth Court, Founder/Director Don Carney

**Marin County School / Law Enforcement Partnership
Subcommittee on Marin Civil Grand Jury Recommendations regarding
School Suspension and Restorative Models**

October 14, 2014 Meeting Notes

Participants: Amy Baer, San Rafael City Schools; Jim Larson, Novato Unified School District; Tami Pallington, Shoreline Unified School District; Karen Allen and Lisa Schwartz, Marin County Office of Education; Don Carney, YMCA and Linda Henn, Twin Cities Community Coalition

- Reviewed the passage from the Marin County Office of Education response to Marin Civil Grand Jury recommendations regarding establishment of advisory committees
- Focus of subcommittee is both Suspension Intervention and Restorative Practices in Marin Schools
- Don Carney mentioned that some of the movement away from school suspensions is due to the preponderance of children of color being 3.5 times more likely to be suspended for willful defiance than their white counterparts
- Linda Henn also raised the community concern regarding underage use of drugs and alcohol at schools which may require suspension; concern that students believe “nothing is going to happen” if they are using or in possession of drugs at schools
- Marissa Wertheimer address the need for a shift in school climate that would parallel the changes in the juvenile justice system; and that this is a process that takes as least two years
- Karen Allen described MCOE’s non-negotiables for suspension (hate language, drug possession, under influence...)
- The subcommittee then moved to a discussion of the variety of Restorative Practices current in place in Marin schools including:
 - informal restorative circles
 - formal restorative circles
 - re-entry circles (post-suspension)
 - use of restorative questions
 - Peer Court in 9 schools for school violations
 - Youth Court out of school for probation or police referrals
 - Youth Court has clients write ‘letter of explanation’ rather than ‘letter of apology’
 - No Bully Solution Teams
 - Suspension Diversion before the offense – such as teacher training for progressive discipline; teacher communication with student and family
 - Wrap Around Services from Seneca
 - Substance Abuse Counseling
 - In-house Suspension with counseling and academic support on site
- New ideas to be explored:
 - Ombudsman concept
 - Consejo in schools
 - Mediation Services
 - High level support for keeping all students in school as much as possible – even when other parents may object
- Next Meeting: December 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education

MARIN COUNTY**SCHOOL/LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP**

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sheriff's Office
1600 Los Gamos Dr. #200, San Rafael

MEETING AGENDA♦ **Welcome/Introductions**♦ **Presentation - Rx Safe Marin Initiative**

Dr. Matt Willis, Marin County Public Health Officer and Representatives from Community Prevention Coalitions

♦ **Information/Announcements**

- Update from SLEP Subcommittee on Suspensions and Restorative Practices
- Marin County School Activity Calendar Reminder – 2014-2015

♦ **Training/Events**

- Parents, Teens and the Law – October 22, 2014
- Beyond Differences, Teens and Social Media – October 23, 2014
- Red Ribbon Week, Love Yourself Be Drug Free – October 23-31, 2014
- Unpacking Our Assumptions - Challenging Our Beliefs – October 27, 2014
- Supporting Student Engagement - Update on New Laws – October 28, 2014
- Ross Valley Coalition Parent Education Event – October 29, 2014
- Marin County Annual Parent Leader Workshop on Emergency Preparedness in Schools – October 30, 2014
- Operation Gratitude – Mail by November 15, 2014
- 19th Peer Summit – November 18, 2014 - 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Real DUI Court in the Schools – November 18, 2015
- Great American Smoke Out – November 20, 2014

♦ **Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2015, Marin County Office of Education**♦ **Adjourn**

MINUTES**MARIN COUNTY
SCHOOL/LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING
October 22, 2014****SPECIAL VENUE:**

**Marin County Sheriff's Office
1660 Los Gamos Rd. San Rafael Suite 200, Lobby A**

Welcome/Introductions

Marin County Sheriff Robert Doyle and Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools welcomed everyone to the new Marin County Sheriff's Office Building.

Special Presentation

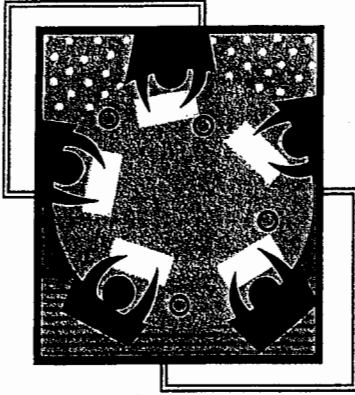
Marin County Public Health Officer Dr. Matt Willis presented an update on the work of the *RxSafe Marin Initiative*. He highlighted the increasing use of prescription medications among Marin County residents and the related medical consequences. Dr. Willis reviewed the steps that the *RxSafe Marin* Action Teams have taken and those that will be implemented over the next 8 months. Dr. Willis' presentation was followed by reports from representatives of Marin's Community Prevention Coalitions.

- Katie Keating, Novato Blue Ribbon Coalition for Youth
- Linda Henn, Twin Cities Coalition for Healthy Youth
- Suzanne Sadowsky, West Marin Coalition for Healthy Kids
- Don Carney, San Rafael Alcohol Prevention Coalition
- DEA Special Supervisor Bruce Goldberg, Mill Valley Coalition
- Renee Goddard, Ross Valley Coalition
- Deborah Schoenbaum, Countywide Coalition: Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol (CMCA) Coalition
- Mark Dale, Marin County Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force

San Jose Middle School Assistant Principal Jim Larson gave a report on the first meeting of the SLEP Subcommittee addressing the Marin County Civil Grand Jury's recommendations regarding school suspensions and restorative practices. The next meeting of the subcommittee is set for December 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at the Marin County Office of Education.



STUDENT ATTENDANCE REVIEW BOARD (SARB)

A Review of Procedures and Requirements for Conducting SARB Meetings

**Presenter: Carl Corbin, Attorney,
School and College Legal Services**

SAVE THE DATE!

This training:

- Is designed for school site/district staff, law enforcement, probation, community mental health and youth advocates who have responsibilities for conducting School Attendance Review Board meetings;
- Will provide attendees with information about their roles and functions in supporting the efficient and legal conduct of managing a SARB meeting; and
- Will inform participants of the Marin County Serious Truant Protocol and procedures.

Training topics include:

- SARB Legal Requirements: History, Appeal, Authority, and Education Code
- Parental Rights
- Board Composition
- Quorum Requirements
- Confidentiality
- Appeal Process
- Forms for Referral Process to Marin County Office of Education Alternative Education Programs
- Special Education Coordination

DATE: October 6, 2014

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Marin County Office of Education
Board Room
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue
San Rafael

RSVP: Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, October 1, 2014 to
Lisa Schwartz, Director
Marin County Office of Education
Alternative Education Programs
lschwartz@marinschools.org
(415) 499-5818 ❖ Fax (415) 491-6621



Mary Jane Burke
Marin County Superintendent of Schools

Update on New Laws

Supporting Student Engagement

Join us for an update on new laws and requirements supporting ***student engagement in school*** co-hosted by the Marin County Office of Education and the North Coast Section of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Linnea Nelson, ACLU of Northern California Staff Attorney for Education Equity will present information on how the new Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) requirements address student and family engagement.

AUDIENCE: Middle/High School Administrators
and Counselors

DATE/TIME: October 28, 2014
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Marin County Office of Education
Community Room
1111 Las Gallinas Avenue

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Lisa Schwartz, Director, Safe Schools and Prevention Programs
Marin County Office of Education
Phone: (415) 499-5818 ♦ Fax: (415) 491-6621
Email: safeschools@marin.k12.ca.us



Mary Jane Burke

Marin County Superintendent of Schools