



Monterey County School Boards Association

June 26, 2018

The Honorable Stephanie E. Hulseley
Judge of the Superior Court
County of Monterey
240 Church Street
Salinas, CA 93901

RE: Response to the 2017-2018 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report - "School Boards Make a Difference, Improving Education: The Role of Local School Boards"

Dear Honorable Judge Hulseley:

The 2017-2018 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report, "School Boards Make a Difference, Improving Education: The Role of Local School Boards," focuses on the critical role school boards play in shaping their school districts.

The Monterey County School Boards Association concurs with the Grand Jury Report that improving student achievement requires full public attention of the community.

Please find below the Monterey County School Boards Association's responses to the recommendations.

Recommendations

R8. The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Boards Association should actively promote and provide the California School Boards Association Masters of Governance training in Monterey County.

The Monterey County Schools Boards Association **agrees**. In fact, the California School Boards Association has been scheduled since the Fall of 2017 to provide the Masters in Governance training program in Monterey County beginning in September. Training topics are as follows:

- Foundation of Effective Governance/Setting Direction
- Student Learning & Achievement/Policy & Judicial Review
- School Finance
- Human Resources/Collective Bargaining
- Community Relations & Advocacy/Governance Integration

A Brown Act Training will also take place during this time.

In addition, the Monterey County School Boards Association's Executive Council met on June 18, 2018 to determine annual training workshops for the 2018/2019 school year based on results from a survey of districts' needs. The School Boards Association will coordinate the following trainings in addition to the Masters in Governance series:

- Comprehensive Safe Schools Plan Training in September 2018
- English Learner Workshop in January 2019
- Brown Act and Governance 101 Session in February 2019

AR9. The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Boards Association should adopt options for school board training to increase attendance and engagement in school board training. For example, offer training throughout the county, webinars, or onsite training.

The Monterey County School Boards Association **agrees**. The Monterey County School Boards Association in coordination with the Monterey County Office of Education promotes California School Boards Association trainings and resources, which includes webinars. Should the Monterey County School Boards Association Executive Council, with representatives from all school districts, decide in the future that other options for training should be offered, we would collaborate with the Monterey County Office of Education to provide them.

R11. The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Boards Association should provide information about school board best practices on their website.

The Monterey County School Boards Association **agrees**. The Monterey County School Boards Association has a webpage on the Monterey County Office of Education's website and will add a link to the County Board webpage at <http://www.montereycoe.org/county-board/index>, where it outlines school board best practices. We will also add a link to California School Boards Association effective governance resources, training and support information.

R12. The Monterey County Office of Education and the Monterey County School Boards Association should provide information on their website about the role and responsibilities of school board members to educate parents, the public and potential school board candidates.

The Monterey County School Boards Association **agrees**. The roles and responsibilities of school board members are outlined by the California School Boards Association and are listed on the Monterey County Office of Education's main County Board webpage at: <http://www.montereycoe.org/county-board/index>. The Monterey County School Boards Association will place a link to this information on their webpage housed under the Monterey County Office of Education's website.

According to the California School Boards Association, "Training and professional learning for board members can enhance their ability to carry out their roles and responsibilities in ways that support the factors associated with improving student achievement in a school district. Board members come to the job with a range of experience and backgrounds in public education, and with various levels of understanding of the local, county, state, and federal laws and policies that affect their schools. In addition, every board is different according to the conditions in the school district or county office of education, and the experience and understanding of individual board members. ... boards as a whole and individual board members also need training according to their particular needs and the concerns of their communities. Moreover, for effective boards, training and professional learning is not a one-time event—boards and board members can benefit from a range of professional learning over time. As their understanding grows, their needs change, and the conditions of the local, state, and federal education landscape will continue to unfold." California School Boards Association. (March 2017.) [The School Board Role in Creating the Conditions for Student Achievement](#).

The Monterey County School Boards Association strives to meet the needs of all our local school governance teams. We concur that training and professional learning is of critical importance for school board members.

Sincerely,



Rita Patel, President
Monterey County School Boards Association