



May 15, 2014

Presiding Judge Ernie LiCalsi

Madera County Superior Court

209 W. Yosemite Ave

Madera, CA 93637

Madera County Grand Jury

P.O. Box 534

Madera, CA 93639

Re: Response of the Sherman Thomas Charter Schools to the 2013-14 Grand Jury Report.

Honorable Judge Ernie LiCalsi,

In accordance with Penal Code section 933.05, the Sherman Thomas Charter Schools submits this response to the Madera County Grand Jury pertaining to their examination of our schools.

The following is the response to the Grand Jury Report. (A copy of the Grand Jury Report with the numbered Findings and Recommendation is enclosed for reference.)

Response to the Findings

Finding 1. The respondent agrees with this finding in part and disagrees in part. The Board of Directors agree that the majority of the expenditures are purchased by the credit cards to expedite the process and are sometimes the only way that companies receive payment. The credit card was used to purchase items for the Christmas Party, however when the invoice was paid the items relating to the Christmas Party were paid from private donations, not with public funds.

Finding 2. The respondent agrees with this finding in part and disagrees in part. The Board of Directors agrees that the expenditures are processed and categorized by the office manager, but this is only one part of the procedure.

Sherman Thomas Charter School in its conception has had oversight by the Madera Unified School District in all school operations including financial matters, but also goes through several other checks and balances including the following;



1. School administration approval, 2. Charter school board approval, 3. Fiscal accounting oversight of Madera County Office of Education, 4. Charter school financial analyst, 5. Independent state approved auditor's audit, and finally 6. California State Controller's audit each year.

Finding 3. The respondent agrees with the findings

Finding 4. The respondent agrees with the findings

Finding 5. The respondent agrees with the findings

Finding 6. The respondent agrees with the findings

Finding 7. The respondent agrees with this finding in part and disagrees in part. The elementary school is ranked the highest in the Madera Unified School District on the Academic Performance Index and has been selected as a 2014 California Distinguished School. We are very proud that within a few years of operation that our school has received this outstanding award and we will continue to educate our students at the highest level as well as building our student's character with learning through service to our community.

Recommendation:

The Grand Jury recommends that the Director, Principal and staff continue in their pursuit of excellence in education for the students of the Sherman Thomas Charter School.

Response To Recommendation

The respondent agrees to continue in their pursuit of excellence of education for all students.

On behalf of the Sherman Thomas Charter School Board of Directors and Administration, thank you for your dedication and service for Madera County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roger D. Leach". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Roger D. Leach, Director/Founder