

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### ***Edwin Markham Middle School***

#### ***Placerville***

#### **Reason for the Report**

The Grand Jury selected Edwin Markham Middle School to review the status of the building repairs recommended in the 2001-2002 Grand Jury Report, and for a general review.

#### **Scope of the Investigation**

The members of the Grand Jury:

- Interviewed the Superintendent and the Principal;
- Toured the school grounds;
- Visited the special science laboratory and several classes including an 8th grade math class;
- Reviewed the Grand Jury report for 2001/2002.

#### **Background**

The school was opened in 1950, and has 756 students. According to the principal, the students consistently score above average on the State Administrative Tests.

The curriculum provides at least 2 elective activities for every student. These electives consist of art, music and drama. The school day begins at 7:44 a.m. and ends at 2:05 p.m. The classes that were visited were orderly and well run. Teachers appear to be involved and interested in the students.

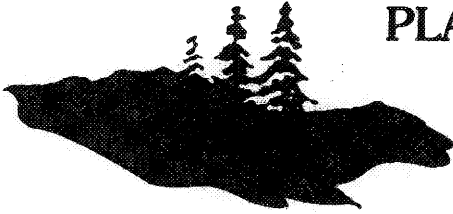
The previous Grand Jury report identified dry-rot and drainage problems in several buildings. While the repair work has not been started to date, the recent passage of school bonds will enable a complete remodeling of the facility. This remodeling will correct the drainage and dry-rot. The architect's plan for the remodeling should be ready for approval by the end of summer 2003.

#### **Findings**

No Board of Supervisors response required.

- F1. Repairs reported by 2001-2002 Grand Jury have not been accomplished.
- F2. Passage of school bonds will enable a complete remodeling of the school.



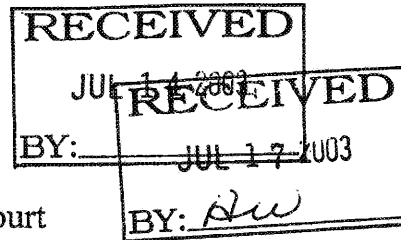


# PLACERVILLE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

1032 THOMPSON WAY  
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667

July 15, 2003

Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Supervising Grand Jury Judge  
El Dorado County Superior Court  
495 Main Street  
Placerville, California 95667



DAVID R. FREEMAN  
Superintendent  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Debbie Akin  
Scott Ganzert  
Annette Hawley  
Jennifer Kiff  
Phil Tierney

Dear Judge:

The Placerville Union School District responds to the Final Report of the 2002-03 El Dorado County Grand Jury as follows:

Findings F1: Repairs reported by 2001-02 Grand Jury have not been accomplished.

Response: The process to get approval through the Division of State Architects (DSA), Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) and the State Allocation Board (SAB) is a long and involved process. We have gone through all the steps for approval but still do not have approval for funding (the State budget situation is holding up the funding issue). The Board of Trustees approved the roof repair and that is currently happening this summer.

Findings F2: Passage of school bonds will enable a complete remodeling of the school.

Response: The Placerville School District did pass a local Proposition 39 Bond in November of 2002. The Bond Measure was to repair and remodel all three Placerville Schools. We are currently working with school personnel and architects to develop cost estimates of what the District would like to accomplish at all the schools. I am sure we will have more requests than we will have funds. After we receive all of the cost estimates, we will establish priorities on what we will do first. The State budget situation is also affecting the Placerville School District's ability to accomplish ongoing maintenance issues.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE  
& COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL  
1032 THOMPSON WAY  
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LOUISIANA SCHNELL SCHOOL  
2871 SCHNELL SCHOOL ROAD  
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SIERRA ACCELERATED SCHOOL  
1100 THOMPSON WAY  
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
(530) 622-0814  
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EDWIN MARKHAM SCHOOL  
2800 MOULTON DRIVE  
PLACERVILLE, CA 95667  
(530) 622-0403  
Fax 622-5584

Recommendations:

R1: Repairs should be accomplished within a reasonable time.

Response: The roof repair is being completed this summer.

R2: Follow up with Architect to confirm project is on target.

Response: The District has the service of an architect to help design the proper repairs and monitor the project progress.

R3: Continuous monitoring of the project should be performed by the Superintendent.

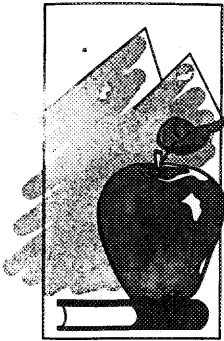
Response: The Superintendent is in continuous contact with the architect, contractor and DSA to insure the project is being completed on time and to proper specifications.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David R. Freeman".

David R. Freeman  
Superintendent

cc: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors



# El Dorado County Office of Education

July 3, 2003

**Vicki L. Barber, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

**Francie Heim**  
*Deputy Superintendent*

**Cathy Bean**  
*Associate Superintendent*

**County Board of Education**

*Dolores Garcia  
John Lane  
Harry J. Norris  
Gene Rasmussen  
Heidi Weiland*

Honorable Jerald Lasarow  
Supervising Grand Jury Judge  
El Dorado County Superior Court  
3221 Cameron Park Drive  
Cameron Park, CA 95682

Dear Honorable Lasarow:

Enclosed please find the Response to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury Report prepared by the El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools.

I regret that the responses to the findings and recommendations related to the El Dorado Union High School District indicate the County Superintendent of Schools has no responsibility for the areas noted. We had previously shared with the members of the Grand Jury the distinction and roles of responsibility between school districts and the El Dorado County Office of Education. The areas noted within the Grand Jury report at Ponderosa High School are clearly outside the purview of the County Superintendent. In addition, the code which dictates the options for a response preclude us from providing information as to how we might assist in mitigating the concerns noted. Please know that we will do everything in our power to be cooperative with the Grand Jury in the future and stand ready to help clarify roles in order that this misunderstanding is not repeated.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please call me at (530)295-2229.

Sincerely,

Vicki L. Barber, Ed.D., County Superintendent  
El Dorado County Office of Education

Enclosure

VB:jmm  
C:\Documents and Settings\jmaruniak.HANGTOWN\My Documents\Grand Jury\02-03 Response Cover Letter.wpd

**530-622-7130**  
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e-mail: [info@edcoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:info@edcoe.k12.ca.us)

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**RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY REPORT  
2002-2003  
PREPARED BY THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**FINDINGS - Ponderosa High School**

***F1 The Science Laboratory Building is the only permanent building built in the last 18 years. All other additions have been modular.***

**Response:**

The finding described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

***F2 Locker Space is not available for all students.***

**Response:**

The finding described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

***F3 Parking is a problem. Students park on the congested two-lane road in front of the school as well as adjacent roads. AS the student population continues to grow, this problem will increase dramatically.***

**Response:**

The finding described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

***F4 The limited vehicle entrances for students, buses, and visitors create unsafe and hazardous conditions on these roads.***

**Response:**

The finding described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

***F5 There is only one School Zone warning sign located near a blind curve on the south side of the campus.***

**Response:**

The finding described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**F6** *There is inadequate space to pick-up or drop-off students, so students are frequently dropped off on the main roadway.*

**Response:**

The finding described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**F7** *There are no streetlights in front of the school on Ponderosa Road. This causes unsafe conditions for students and parents that attend evening after-school activities and for students arriving during early morning hours, especially in the winter months.*

**Response:**

The finding described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R1** *Additional student locker space should be provided.*

**Response:**

The recommendation described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**R2** *The current student parking needs should be evaluated.*

**Response:**

The recommendation described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**R3** *An additional entrance on the south side of the lot should be considered and this entrance should have a three-way stop sign or traffic actuated stoplight.*

**Response:**

The recommendation described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**R4** *Additional School Zone warning signs should be installed on Meder Road and the north side of the campus on Ponderosa Road.*

**Response:**

The recommendation described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**R5** *A turnout area should be added off Ponderosa Road for drivers to pick-up and drop-off students.*

**Response:**

The recommendation described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.

**R6** *Streetlights should be installed in front of the campus on Ponderosa Road.*

**Response:**

The recommendation described above is not under the control of the County Superintendent of Schools and is properly addressed by the El Dorado Union High School District.