



# Grass Valley School District

September 5, 2023

The Honorable Judge Scott Thomsen  
Supervising judge of the Grand Jury  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

The following is the required response to the June 15, 2023 Nevada County Grand Jury report titled "*Nevada County School Boards: An Educational Opportunity*". As District Superintendent, I presented the Grand Jury Report on August 8th 2023 during the public open session at our School Board Meeting. We hope the following responses support the work and questions from the Grand Jury.

We believe the Grass Valley School District Board of Trustees have done an admirable job ensuring we comply with all Brown Act Requirements. As required by Penal Code Section 933.05, The Grass Valley School District responses are included below in regards to the proposed Finding and Recommendation:

## **Finding 1**

While representing the Trustees of the Grass Valley School District, I agree with the finding that legal, ethical and Brown Act Training, required for all Board members across the County, should address laws regarding political campaigning.

## **Recommendation 2**

While representing the Trustees of the Grass Valley School District, I also agree with the recommendations that Nevada County Superintendent of Schools provide campaign behavior training for Trustees across all school districts, including the Nevada County Board of Education, that supplements the legal and ethical training already required. Our GVSD Trustees currently participate in the biennial board governance training that is provided for trustees on election years. Our school district works to ensure participation from all Trustees. We have also been in communication with the NCSOS office and we have confirmed that starting in the 2023/2024 school year a section on Ed Code 7054 – Political Activities of School Officers and Employees will be added.

We hope this information is helpful in understanding the authorities between our Nevada County School Districts and our Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office. Respectfully provided on behalf of the Grass Valley School District School Board of Trustees,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Withers", is written over the printed name.

Andrew Withers

Superintendent - Grass Valley School District

Small handwritten initials "ST" in blue ink, likely representing Judge Scott Thomsen, are located at the bottom left of the page.