



The Superior Court
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN
222 E. WEBER AVENUE, ROOM 303
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95202

TELEPHONE
(209) 468-2827
WEBSITE
www.stocktoncourt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, June 2, 2011

2010-2011 GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON SCHOOL BOARD COMPENSATION

The San Joaquin County 2010-2011 Civil Grand Jury today released its report investigating School Board compensation in San Joaquin County K-12 schools. The report indicates that *“in this economic climate, financial prudence is expected of trustees in their governance role in public schools.”* The Grand Jury does not include any findings or recommendations in its report, as the report is informational in nature and is meant to provide the public with a means by which *“to compare their school board compensation to others in the county.”*

In the course of its investigation, the Grand Jury reviewed financial information supplied by the County Office of Education for all schools except Stockton Unified and Lodi Unified School Districts, which provided their own financial information. *“San Joaquin County has 15 school districts, including the County Office of Education.”* The County Office of Education also provided demographic information for all schools. Board Bylaws for each school district were also reviewed as *“health, dental, vision and life insurance benefits can be offered, per each district’s bylaws, at the board’s discretion.”*

The report *“describes the demographics of each school including: the number of schools in each district; enrollment as of March 15, 2011, number of trustees, their monthly stipend, the most (cap) the district allowed for health benefits per trustee, the total annual cost to the district, and the maximum potential compensation the district could have to pay. There were a variety of different*

costs to each district, as well as variations by trustee, depending on what each trustee opted to receive.”

The report concludes by highlighting the severe revenue shortfall for K-12 education across the state, which has induced such measures as lay-offs of staff and larger class sizes. *“Boards may wish to reduce or eliminate district paid benefits on their behalf. In addition, the public may wish to discuss trustee compensation with their Boards.”*

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(Copy of report attached)