

AGENCY RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: **Vaping: An Under-the-Radar Epidemic**

Report Date: **May 9, 2019**

Response Date: **August 9, 2019**

Agency Name: Novato Unified School District

Agenda Date: August 6, 2019

Response by: Kris Cosca, Ed.D.

Title: Superintendent

FINDINGS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: Please see attached.
- I (we) disagree *partially* with the findings numbered: _____
- I (we) disagree *wholly* with the findings numbered: _____

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

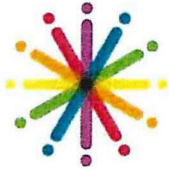
- Recommendations numbered R1 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered R4 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: 8/6/19

Signed: _____



Number of pages attached 3



NOVATO
UNIFIED
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

Kris Cosca, Ed.D
Superintendent

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August 6, 2019

The Honorable Judge Paul Haakenson
Marin County Superior Court
P.O. Box 4988
San Rafael, CA 94913-4988

Mr. Pat Randolph, Foreperson
Marin County Civil Grand Jury
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room #275
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Judge Haakenson and Foreperson Randolph,

In response to Mr. Randolph's letter dated May 16, 2019, below are the responses to the recommendations (R1, R4) of the May 16, 2019, Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report *Vaping: An Under-the-Radar Epidemic* from the Novato Unified School District.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. The County of Marin Department of Health and Human Services, the Marin County Office of Education and all school districts should increase initiatives to provide students, parents, and the community with more information and support on vaping prevention and cessation. Initiatives should include digital and social media content, including materials for middle and high schools.**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

We fully agree with the Grand Jury recommendations that school districts and community partners need to increase education and outreach regarding vaping. The Novato Unified School District (NUSD) is addressing this issue in multiple ways.

NUSD applied for and received funding from the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) Tobacco Grant Program in late 2018 in partnership with the Novato Police Department. This is a three-year grant beginning in 2018 and ending in 2021. In addition to the CA DOJ Grant, NUSD is also being generously funded by the Peter E. Haas, Jr. Family Fund for the Healthy Novato Initiative which is a partnership with North Marin Community Services and the Youth Leadership Institute.

Through the CA DOJ Grant, NUSD will be implementing a tobacco/vaping education program beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. The Grant is funding materials such as posters and brochures in both English and Spanish that will be distributed to middle and high school students. These materials will also accompany the tobacco education program being delivered by North Bay Security Group.

In the spring of 2019, the Health Novato Grant funded an Anti-Vaping Social Media Ad Campaign targeting adolescents, parents/guardians of adolescents, and other adults in Novato. The primary aim was to increase awareness of the harmful effects of vaping, e-cigarette and marijuana usage in teens and young adults. The ad campaign primarily focused on Facebook and attained a reach of 31,522 people and had 369 engagements.

NUSD is also a participant in the Marin Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Consortium for school-based tobacco-use prevention education programs funded by the California Department of Education and coordinated by the Marin County Office of Education. The activities include:

- Site Coordinators and Peer Educator groups at San Jose, Sinaloa, Marin Oaks, Novato High and San Marin providing peer-to-peer education and design anti-tobacco/vaping campaigns for their campuses.
- Tobacco-related discipline issues are coordinated with the TUPE program and restorative justice.
- 7th and 9th grades are provided with Project ALERT and TND (Toward No Drugs) curriculum aimed at reducing risk-taking behaviors.

While much work has been done in this area, the seriousness of the situation requires us to continue to expand our efforts. NUSD, in conjunction with the Marin County Office of Education and the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, has developed a comprehensive response to the issue on which to build that includes:

- Parent/community education
 - Natural Highs: Supporting Teens in making Healthy Choices – at Marin County Office of Education (MCOE) (April 2018)
 - Vaping Epidemic Parent Workshop – at MCOE and recording posted to MCOE website (October 2018)
 - Marin Voice: An All-out Campaign is Needed Against Vaping (printed in Marin Independent Journal on April 20, 2019)
 - A Parent's Guide for the Prevention of Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Use with vaping insert (mailed to all parents of incoming freshman in August 2018)
- School Staff/Administration Presentations
 - Marin Community United – Vaping and Our Children a Call to Action for Schools, Local Government and Community Partners (April 2019)
- Digital content
 - Youth-created public service announcements
 - Peer produced videos
 - Student inspired graphic designs and poster

R4. Each school district should install vaping detectors in school bathrooms and other areas where vaping frequently occurs.

Response: The recommendation is being implemented in the fall 2019.

We fully agree with the Grand Jury recommendations. The Novato Unified School District applied for and received funding from the California Department of Justice Tobacco Grant Program in late 2018. This is a three-year grant beginning in 2018 and ending in 2021. A portion of the grant is funding vaping detectors for bathrooms on NUSD's middle and high school where vaping frequently occurs. These vaping detectors will be installed in the fall of 2019.

Thank you for your continued attention and support of our public schools and the health and wellness of our county's young people. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Butler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Debbie Butler
President, NUSD Board of Education

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Cosca". The signature is cursive and includes a large, sweeping initial "K".

Kris Cosca, Ed.D.
Superintendent